



ARMANews



To God Be The Glory

by Lucy Janjigian
See page 11

L 2

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CONTENTS

April•May•June 2016 /// L2

- 3 Editorial** How Old is 170?
- 4 Inspirational Corner**
For Guidance and Continued Reformation By Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian
- 5 Armenian Genocide** The Crimson Dawn By Zaven Khanjian
- 6 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church**
- 6** United Church of Christ
- 7** Presbyterian Church USA
- 8** Armenian Evangelical World Council
- 9** Armenian Evangelical Union of North America
- 9** Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in Eurasia
- 10** Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in Armenia
- 10** Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of France
- 11** Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East
- 12** A Message from the Near East By Dr. Hrayr Jebejian
- 13 Official Call to the 97th Annual Meeting of AMAA**
- 14 Meet our Veteran Pastors**
Rev. Dr. Solomon Alexander Nigosian By Mihran Jizmejian
- 16 Australia**
AMAA Executive Director Visits the Mission Field in Australia
- 18 South America**
Historic Gathering in South America By Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian and Levon Filian
- 21 Artsakh**
- 21** AMAA Provides Food and Shelter to Evacuees from Martakert
- 22 Middle East**
- 22** Haigazian University 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner in Dubai, UAE
- 23** Latest From Syria
- 24 United States**
- 24** 25th Anniversary of LA Orphan and Child Care Committee
- 26** AMAA Presents Dr. Herand Markarian's Book By Taleen Kupelian
- 27** AMAA-Lark St. Matthew Passion Concert By Joyce Abdulian
- 28** Merdinian School Dedicates Bezjian Family Building
- 29 Armenia**
- 29** News from Avedisian School
- 30** News from AMA- Armenia and Evangelical Church of Armenia
- 32 AMAA Sundays on the West Coast**
- 35 News & Notes**
- 38 Armenian Section**
- 38** 170th Anniversary of Armenian Evang'l Church By Rev. Berdj Djambazian
- 41** 15th Anniversary of AMA-Australia By Zaven Khanjian
- 43 Bookstore**
- 45 Obituaries**
- 47 Armenian Children's Milk Fund**

How Old is 170?

Aging is a dual sword. On the bright side, it is added wisdom with earned knowledge and experience. On the other, it bears the risk of chronic fatigue and impaired memory.

Whose age is another question. For humans, 170 years are beyond consideration while in the context of history, 170 could be irrelevant and inconsequential.

What remains is the measuring tool used; the impact observed.

In 2016, the Armenian Evangelical Church – Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի – celebrates the 170th Anniversary of its founding.

I am not about to engage in the historical dissertation of its founding. For the inquisitive minds volumes abound on the subject.

Today, as we celebrate yet another milestone anniversary of the AEC, we praise God for the illumination that it has brought to the nation from the historical Homeland to the Near East and all over the Diaspora.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America embraces the grateful notion that the cradle of its glorious century old service rendered to the nation is the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church in 1846 in Constantinople. It could be argued that the AMAA enjoys a symbiotic relationship of interdependence with the Church where, having been delivered by it has been faithful in its mission of reinforcing, supporting and sustaining the deliverer and its mission.

The legacy of the AEC on the stage of the nation's modern history has been one of a glowing halo of service in educational, spiritual, cultural, social and physical needs – an esteemed, applauded and glorious journey.

The Church however, at the threshold of any milestone, cannot justify its existence and stall its zest relying on past glories. The living church of Christ, of which the AMAA is an integral part, must be ready and

alert to face new challenges that an evolving world breeds every day. Challenges such as:

- ◆ global disintegration and decline of moral and spiritual values
- ◆ division and discord within the Church that could be obviated in humility and Christian love
- ◆ physical threats of extinction to Christians and minorities in the Near East
- ◆ existential threat from hostile neighbors to our ancestral homeland
- ◆ and, erosion of our mother tongue, the language of the founders of AEC.

Today, more than ever, armed with fervent cheerfulness and invigorated faith, the Church needs to face the future with a solid commitment and iron will to march forward with its mission of spreading God's love to our people and all mankind. The legacy of the past can only constitute a useful platform for a leap forward.

It is our heartfelt wish and expectation that the Church, faithful to its core mission and hand in hand with the Universal Church, will share the Good News of the Kingdom and preach the Gospel all over the world for a witness to all nations calling man to turn back to the fountain of eternal love and good, God Almighty.

How old is 170?

With perpetual dynamism, age is irrelevant. □



Zaven Khanjian
Executive Director/CEO

For Guidance and Continued Reformation

By Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian*

While the Armenian Evangelical world celebrates the 170th Anniversary of its formal foundation as a church, I celebrate the fact that it is not the numbers, material structures, instruments of power, circles of influence, or halls of fame it has been known for, but rather for modes of Christian piety, critical thought, circles of Bible study, outreach to the needy, passion for the education of the young, simplicity and regularity of communal worship, moments of humility and patience in times of brokenness, voluntarism in days of hardship, clinging to the Word in season and out of season, and undistracted service in conditions of rejection.



In no way does this make the Armenian Evangelical Church a 'strong' church. Genuinely speaking, the church is always weak because it is in this world. Its greatness or strength is not rooted in our times and places. Truly, when the church, any church, has felt itself as strong, it has fallen in the temptation of clinging to the matters of this world. Indeed, high numbers are important to bring about change and make a wider impact. True, material structures are important for the creation of memory, and true influence is important to sustain organized life, however, keeping the body and losing the soul also applies to the church, including our church.

Every church, indeed all churches, are called to be 'weak' to this world, and called to be 'strong' to eternal grace. The "foolishness of the cross" also suggests the same.

In this perspective, and while I ponder upon the 170 years of the existence of the Armenian Evangelical Church, three main aspects come to mind:

First, the church is more globally spread today than it ever has been. The same is true for the Armenian Evangelical Church. The spread is not only the spread of the gospel through the ministry of our church, as much as it is due to wars, deportations, economic hardships or simply the increasingly globalized character of the world we live in. This poses challenges of identity, ecclesiology, and especially fellowship amongst all, including the Armenians. No matter how many factors of faith, history and modern communication bring us all together from São Paulo, Brazil to Montreal, Canada, from Alexandria, Egypt, to Lyon, France, from Anjar, Lebanon to Stepanavan, Armenia, from Kessab, Syria to Sydney, Australia, we know well that increasing globalization, the passage of time, the revision of values, the loss of perspective and sense of common mission will make our unified task and Christian and ethnic identity all the more difficult to maintain and develop. At the same time, however, the Christ of all times, the Lord of all, and the renewal of all places will also empower us if we take our global presence wisely and faithfully.

Second, even after 170 years of effective existence, it is not always clear that the Armenian Evangelical Church is perched by those around it as it would want to be perceived. In one place, it is perceived as only and narrowly serving the Armenian people. In other places it is perceived as less Armenian than the Mother church. In a third place it is seen as promoting a highly individualistic faith and church polity. While we can find reasons for misperceptions such as the ones mentioned above, we also mourn the fact that despite much development in various domains, people's perceptions of the nature of the church and of society need a more developed approach. Armenian Evangelicals are proud of their heritage and contributions to Christianity, and Armenian Christianity in particular. Yet, continued efforts to correct misperceptions and continued self-critique regarding the areas which need reformation and rethinking are welcome.

Third, how well the Armenian Evangelical Church maintains the key characteristics of a church that partly roots itself in the Reformed tradition is also a question; that is, how well it preaches the Word of God, how properly it understands and administers the Sacraments, how well it educates its members, how properly it organizes church life, and how responsibly it reacts to the matters of the world. Equally important is how our church today relates to its partly pietistic tradition and promotes personal spirituality, how well it expresses its Armenian roots and turns its heritage into a genuinely Christian reality.

May these thoughts rekindle in us what has been best in the Armenian Evangelical experience, and may we humbly turn to the Lord for guidance and continued reformation. □

* Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian is the President of Haigazian University and the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East.

THE CRIMSON DAWN

Վարդահեդեղ Արշալոյս

Ու անհամբեր հեռո՛ւն, հեռո՛ւն ակնապիշ
Պիտի սպասեն վարդահեդեղ գալուստին
Արշալոյսի մ'Արշալոյսի մը որուն
(Հաւատացէք ինձ, Մայրեր)
Ես ոտնաձայնը կ'առնեմ...

Դանիէլ Վարուժան (1884-1915)

How I wish I could stand before you today and share the joyful news of the arrival of the "crimson dawn" as sung by the literary genius, Taniel Varoujan, silenced by evil hands at the turn of the last century.

Alas, the crimson dawn, the footsteps of which Varoujan assured the mothers of our innocent Genocide victims to have heard, still lies in our future.

For 50 years after the Genocide, we struggled to stand up, recover and heal from our physical wounds. A generation of orphans lost their precious childhood for another generation to enjoy. And by the grace of God, thanks to God loving and God fearing people around the world, we rose back from the ashes and survived.

1965 brought us an awakening that burst into the open both in the Homeland and all around the Diaspora. Having survived, we took the road to quest for justice and collectively did a fairly good job. By the Centennial of the Genocide last year we confidently claimed a degree of reward and victory raising our national struggle to an unprecedented plateau of universal awareness, respect and recognition worthy of the cause and powerful in its impact.

I indeed realize that it is absurd to compare human pain and suffering. But the fact is that the crime committed against my people a century ago not only resulted in the 'murder of a nation' but in the uprooting of an indigenous race peacefully toiling on the lands they called home for many millennia. This fact should not fall victim to 'absurdity' and should never be forgotten. It deepens the pain and raises the magnitude of the crime reminding us of the prophet Elijah who took the Lord's message to King Ahab saying "Wasn't it enough that you killed Naboth? Must you rob him, too?" «Մեղուցի՞ր ու կը ժառանգե՞ս աւ:» I Kings 21:19

Lives are priceless and can never be brought back. But there is also a wealth of tangible and intangible loot that needs to be recovered and a crime that needs to be brought to justice.



Despite all of our many achievements we have not gained much on the road of reparations, restitution and recognition from the heirs of the perpetrators. All recognition, sympathy and acknowledgement in the civilized world have come with impunity and with no legal muscle. And the perpetrators themselves are in a coma of self-denial. Adding insult to injury, the same civilized world, with total acquiescence, turns a blind eye to the crime committed today by the same perpetrator in Syria or by a cousin in Nagorno Karabagh.

We can only depend on our selfless and sacrificial devotion and commitment to an iron ladle. I have an unwavering confidence in a new 'miracle' generation, regiments of professionals excelling in the arts and sciences, education and business, journalism and public service, literature and technology and that is our way to go.

God incarnate advocated for the poor and the oppressed, challenged unjust behavior and confronted arrogance, promoted justice and condemned bigotry. Jesus Christ lashed out at the self-promoters at the temple. We will trust the Lord and struggle for justice all alone, today, tomorrow, for 50 more years or a hundred if need be. We will acquire the iron ladle in our pursuit of justice and together with immortal Varoujan

Impatiently and attentively staring afar
Will await the arrival of the crimson dawn
A dawn,
The footsteps of which,
-Believe me mothers-
I DO HEAR!"

Zaven Khanjian

April 24, 2016, Times Square, New York

170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Global Ministries

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ

**A word of congratulations and encouragement to our
Armenian Evangelical sisters and brothers**
April 2016

**Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**
IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA



It is with great joy that we greet you in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

In the midst of this Easter season, as we celebrate the wonder and hope of resurrection, we also approach the 170th birth anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church. As inheritors of the legacy of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), we are especially proud and honored to send you our congratulations, as our history is intertwined in mission and common cause, and our present remains linked through partnership.

Established in Constantinople, Turkey (Istanbul today) on July 1, 1846, “midwived” (as your leadership has put it) by our early missionaries, the Armenian Evangelical community has engaged in theological reform, participated actively in educational and social progress, and maintained a deep Christian witness and presence throughout the Middle East, and indeed the world. You have also experienced the trauma of Genocide, and now the impact—with so many others—of the Syria war, but have remained strong and proud, looking forward even as you carry the memory and reality of great tragedy with you. Your strong sense of survival and identity includes your profound commitment to service and the betterment of the whole of society.

Our churches are enriched by the membership of and relationships with Armenian Evangelicals here in North America—in our churches and through the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America—and the global relationships and engagement we share are strong, most notably with the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, including Haigazian University, and the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Spiritual, educational, and formational ministries continue to be your emphases, and we are proud to participate with you in those.

As you prepare to mark this important anniversary in the life of your church and community, please accept our congratulations and prayers for your continued presence and witness..

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. James Moos
Executive Minister
Wider Church Ministries, UCC
Co-Executive, Global Ministries

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Julia Brown Karimu
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

April 15, 2016

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Congratulations on this 170th Anniversary celebration of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Istanbul, where the worldwide movement of Armenian Evangelicalism had its start. Your history of faithfulness and courage began with a thirst for God's Word and a love for God's people, which continue today—for this we give glory to God!

It is an honor to count you among our sisters and brothers in Christ through two significant centuries as together we begin a third. You have been co-laborers in mission and education with Presbyterians since the inception of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

We stand with you in solidarity remembering the Armenian Genocide which our General Assembly officially commemorated in June 2014. We continue to join you in prayer and direct outreach in the face of violence today—devastating war in Syria and Iraq, aggressions in Nagorno-Karabagh, and the recent desecration at Deir ez-Zor.

We have witnessed the power and mercy of our risen Savior at work within our evangelical partnerships throughout the Middle East: in the Synods of Lebanon and Syria and of Egypt, through the founding of the American Universities in Beirut and in Cairo, and in the ongoing training of disciples at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut. In the United States we participated in the establishment of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno in 1898, whose first minister was a former Presbyterian missionary in Bitlis, the Rev. Lysander Burbank.

The ecumenical ministry of relief, development and discipleship carried out by the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) among Armenians in greatest need has operated for the last 50 years from an endowment fund of the PC (USA). JMP gives thanks for strong partnerships with Evangelical churches throughout Armenia and the Middle East, which together help restore dignity and hope to 40,000 people each year.

We look to the future with hope, and may God continue to bless Armenian Evangelical churches for the sake of the good news of Jesus Christ as it extends across the earth.

In Christ's Service Together,

Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Amgad Beblawi
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ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL ՀԱՅ ԱՌԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱՇԽԱՐՀԱՅԻՆ ԽՈՐՀՈՒՐԴ CONSEIL MONDIAL EVANGELIQUE ARMENIEN

... that they may be one (John 17:11) ... որպէսզի անոնք մէկ ըլլան (Յովհ. 17.11) ... afin qu'ils soient un (Jean 17:11)

170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church

July 1, 2016 marks the 170th Anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church (AEC). Anniversaries are not only opportune times to look backward and honor the past, but also to look forward to the future, to renew people's dedication, and to challenge them to greater efforts.

The 170th Anniversary is an appropriate time to pay tribute to the memory of the pioneers, and salute those who followed in the footsteps of the "founding fathers" and kept the torch of faith burning. It is also an appropriate time to renew our dedication and be challenged to venture for greater accomplishments.

The 170-year legacy of the AEC is a rich one. AEC has a proud heritage, and its benefits and contributions to the Armenian nation have been manifold in the religious, educational, social, political, philanthropic and leadership areas.

The following are but a few of those accomplishments: AEC created a revival of spiritual values among the Armenian people; it translated and popularized the Bible in the language of the people; it placed a great emphasis on Christian education through its Church schools, youth organizations and Christian camps; it developed a sound educational network ranging from kindergarten to university, and educated thousands of Armenians; it established many philanthropic and missionary institutions which served as Good Samaritans to many; it contributed to the enhancement of the Armenian culture through its publications, news media and programs; it gave the Armenian nation many great individuals who provided leadership to the nation, and it became a pioneer in the 20th Century ecumenical movement.

On the 170th Anniversary, as we thank God for these accomplishments, we realize that some of AEC's ideals are in danger of being tarnished and some of its followers' loyalties are growing dim. The future places before us some challenges. We must recover the zeal of our forefathers for evangelism. The AEC was born of evangelism and for evangelizing. We should continue to emphasize the importance of one's personal relationship with Christ; we need to inspire our members to lead reformed and changed lives according to the teaching of the Bible; to preserve and perpetuate our Armenian heritage; to make our churches witnessing communities of faith and to prepare competent and spiritual leadership.

On the national level, the AEC should continue its moral and financial support to the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh (Artzakh) in order to strengthen them spiritually, economically, politically and socially, and also to help the displaced Armenians of the Middle East.

The AEC should become a dynamic, witnessing community relating faith to all areas of life through ministry, work, deed and lifestyle. It should embody, interpret and communicate Armenian Christendom in its spiritual and cultural dimension.

The 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church will hopefully be a time not only to recall the past, but also an occasion to meet the challenges of the future.

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council

I write this brief article to express my deepest joy and congratulations to the Armenian Evangelical Church on the 170th Anniversary of its birth. As I think back to what I know of the events that transpired in and around 1846, I feel a profound sense of pride and thankfulness to those who had the courage at that time to stand firm in their biblical understanding of the Christian faith. In his second letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul says: "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." (2 Timothy 4:3)

In every age, we encounter those who would try to reshape the Gospel message and reinterpret the Biblical mandates we receive from God's Word in the Bible. Under the leadership of insightful men like Krikor Peshtimaldjian, the Society of the Pious stood firm against such thinking, wishing simply to draw people back to personal faith in Jesus Christ. They cared about the spiritual well-being of all Armenians as well as others around the world. The goal was never to separate and divide, but to reform and renew spiritual vitality in the Armenian Church.

Today, 170 years later, we are the proud torch bearers of the spiritual movement that they started. After the Armenian Evangelical Church was born in 1846 in Pera, Turkey, evangelical fervor spread throughout the land. Dozens of churches were formed, schools were built and many were led to saving faith in Jesus Christ. As a result of the Diaspora after the Genocide of 1915, Armenian Evangelicals were spread around the world and continued to plant churches and build schools in many different countries.

Our ears do not itch for the latest philosophy of worldly teachers. Our roots are grounded firmly in the God breathed Word of God. We join hands with our founders to carry on the mission of Christ to share the Gospel with a world that needs to know of His love and grace. We stand firmly and proudly in that heritage, preaching the power of the risen Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation that comes only through faith in Him.

Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, Moderator, AEUNA



On the occasion of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church, the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Eurasia extends its gratitude to God. The pioneers of the Armenian Evangelical Churches had one purpose: to glorify God and communicate to all creation the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. This 170 year Anniversary is also an opportunity to renew our connection with the God of the Bible, as well as our Armenian nation, which has a history spanning over 3,000 years.

In Eurasia, that is, in the former Soviet Union countries, the Armenian Evangelical Church members and supporters realize the immensity of God's goodness and faithfulness.

These churches are present in different cities and regions of Russia, Abkhazia and Georgia. There are also invitations and appeals from other countries of Eurasia, that we may go to them to help them spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Presently, our projects are more focused on believers for biblical teaching and training, to enable them to testify for their faith; without neglecting Christian education, humanitarian and cultural projects. In all these endeavors, we want to keep the balance between biblical teaching and the preservation of Armenian identity.

Different events have been planned for this year in Moscow, Sochi, Sukhumi, Tbilisi, and Akhalkalak. We join with all our brothers and sisters who celebrate the 170 year Anniversary both in Armenia and all over the world. We remember the vision given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ which we find in Matthew 28:19: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." To fulfill this vision, we allow God to inspire us so that we can adopt the right strategies, the right people, and the appropriate means. May all the glory be to our God.

Rev. Dr. René Leonian, President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in Eurasia



1846թ. կազմավորումից ի վեր Հայաստանյայց ավետարանական եկեղեցին (ՀԱԵ) ծգտել է հավատարիմ լինել իր անվանը և կոչումին: 170 տարի ՀԱԵ-ն եղել ու շարունակում է մնալ հայ ժողովրդի կողքին, նրա կրած զրկանքների, տառապանքների, հաջողությունների և ձեռքբերումների անբաժան մի մասը լինելով: Իր համեստ ներդրումն է ունեցել Հայ ազգի հոգևոր, կրթական, ընկերային և մշակութային կյանքի մեջ: Իր բոլոր ձեռքբերումների և հաջողությունների հետ մեկտեղ՝ ինչպես ամեն մեկ կառույց, ունեցել ենք նաև անցանկալի տկարություններ և թերություններ, որոնցից անհրաժեշտ դասերը քաղելով՝ առաջ ենք շարժվում: Նայելով մեր այսօրվա խնդիրներին, ինչպես նաև ապագա մարտահրավերներին՝ մենք մեր տեսադաշտից չպետք է կորցնենք, որպես եկեղեցի լինելու գոյապատճառը:



Ապրելով այնպիսի ժամանակաշրջանում, ուր քրիստոնեական արժեհամակարգը անտեսվում է, ընտանեկան ինստիտուտը քանդվում, ազգային և մշակութային սահմանները ջնջվում, կա լուրջ վտանգ և մեծ մտահոգություն. Կկարողանա՞նք արդյոք պահել մեր հոգևոր և ազգային դիմագիծը: Ճիշտ է, որ մեր շուրջը արագ փոփոխվում են հոգևոր արժեքները, շարժառիթները ու նպատակները սակայն մեզ համար անփոփոխ պետք է մնան այն քրիստոնեական արժեքները և նպատակները, որոնց ծգտում ենք հասնել և հաստատել Հայաստանյայց ավետարանական եկեղեցու միջոցով: Ես համոզված եմ, որ Հայաստանյայց ավետարանական եկեղեցու լավագույն օրերը դեռ առջևում են: Հիմքը նման լավատեսության Ա թեսաղոնիկեցիներին 5.24- «Հավատարիմ է Նա, որ կանչեց ձեզ և Ինքն էլ պիտի կատարի այն»:

Փառք Աստծուն Հայաստանյայց ավետարանական եկեղեցու գոյության համար: Սիրելիներ, շարունակենք պահել ու պահպանել մեր Հոգևոր և ազգային դիմագիծը:

Վեր. Գևորգ Գասպարյան, ՀԱԵ միության նախագահ
Երևան, Հայաստան

UNION DES EGLISES EVANGÉLIQUE ARMÉNIENNE FRANCE

A l'occasion du 170^{ème} anniversaire de **'l'Eglise Evangélique Arménienne'** je voudrais au nom de l'Union des Eglises Evangéliques Arméniennes de France, exprimer toute ma reconnaissance à Dieu. Dès le début, en juillet 1846, et jusqu'à aujourd'hui, Dieu a suscité des hommes et des femmes, des serviteurs et des servantes, en Turquie et dans tous les lieux où les enfants de notre peuple arménien ont été dispersés. Par amour pour Dieu, ces croyants, remplis de foi et de zèle ont, au prix de grands sacrifices et dans des circonstances souvent difficiles, déployés leurs forces, mis en œuvre leurs capacités et leurs moyens, pour préserver et transmettre la foi évangélique au sein du peuple arménien et au-delà. Des églises se sont bâties, des communautés se sont organisées, et chaque génération a apporté sa contribution à l'édifice. Jésus-Christ, la foi, l'espérance et l'amour ont toujours été les fondements qui ont permis à l'église évangélique arménienne d'exister et de durer jusqu'à aujourd'hui. Dieu nous a permis d'avoir un riche héritage spirituel et évangélique.



Voici ce que l'apôtre Paul dit à Timothé en **2 Tim 1v14** : « **Garde intact, par l'Esprit Saint qui habite en nous, le bien précieux qui t'a été confié.** » En ce 170^{ème} anniversaire il est plus que jamais indispensable de garder fermement **'l'héritage précieux'** que nous avons reçu, c'est-à-dire la foi en Jésus-Christ notre Sauveur et Seigneur. Nous vivons des temps qui sont de plus en plus dangereux et difficiles. Le diable rôde comme un lion rugissant cherchant qui dévorer (**1 Pierre 5v8**). Plus que jamais, avec l'aide de Dieu, nous devons regarder à Jésus, être attachés à la Parole de Dieu, et aspirer à être remplis du Saint-Esprit et conduit par le Saint-Esprit. Plus que jamais nous devons aimer Dieu de tout notre être, nous aimer les uns les autres, aimer notre prochain, et être unis au sein de notre famille évangélique : locale, nationale et mondiale.

Dieu a voulu et placé l'Eglise Evangélique Arménienne dans le monde avec une mission : celle de porter du fruit pour le Royaume de Dieu, au sein du peuple arménien et jusqu'aux extrémités de la terre (**Actes 1v8**).

Merci Seigneur pour **'l'Eglise Evangélique Arménienne'**. Garde nous fidèle jusqu'au bout.

Pasteur Jacques TCHOHANDJIAN, **Président de l'Union**

ՅԱՌԱՋ, ՔԱՅԼ ՄԸ ԵՒՄ

Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին հարիւր եօթանասուն ամեակով, ժամանակը կու գայ մեզի թելադրելու, թէ՛ անոր թաւալքին մէջ՝ ոչ ոք եւ ոչ մէկ բան նոյն տեղը կը փայլէ: Երբ ժամանակը կը կենայ՝ կեանք չի փառ, եւ երբ կեանքը կը դադրի՝ ժամանակը իր իմաստը կը կորսնցնէ:

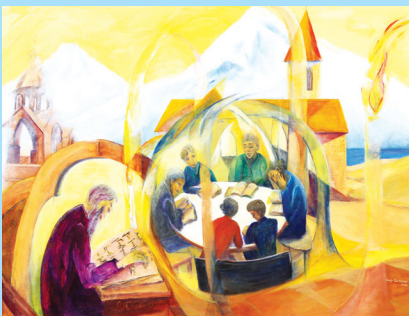
Հարիւր եօթանասուն տարիներու իր կեանքին մէջ՝ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին քայլ մը եւս կը յառաջանայ: Եթէ մեր կեանքը՝ մեր պատմութիւնը մեր Եկեղեցիին տարբեր մասերը առաջնորդեց իրարմէ քիչ մը տարբեր ուղղութեամբ ապրելու եւ աճելու, ապա ատիկա անցեալին կը պատկանի: Բնական պիտի սեպուէր որ տարբեր երկիրներու, տարբեր մշակոյթներու մէջ ապրելով՝ տարբեր ըլլար ամէն մէկ մասին զարգացումը: Իսկ այսօր, բոլոր տարբերութիւնները տեսանելի եւ հասկնալի կրնան դառնալ բոլոր մասերուն, տրուած ըլլալով որ հաղորդակցութեան միջոցները շատ ու շատ յառաջացած են: Ուրեմն, քայլ մը եւս յառաջանալու իրականութեան մէջ՝ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին, իր տեղական բոլոր գոյներով, կարելիութիւնը կրնայ ունենալ որ այդ «քայլ»-ը ըլլայ «մաս»-երուն իրարու մօտենալուն եւ իրենց սկզբնական ջինջ աւետարանականութիւնը միասին ապրելուն ժամանակը: Մեր Եկեղեցիին կեանքը կրնայ մեզ առաջնորդել նոյն ուղղութիւնով զարգանալու, եթէ համարձակինք ընդունիլ եւ որոշել այդպէս:

Հիմնական որոշումը այն պիտի ըլլայ, որ մենք Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոսի Աւետարանով պիտի ապրինք: Այն է մեր մարդկային կեանքին հարցերուն լուծումը եւ մեր հոգեւոր ծարարը յագեցնող աղբիւրը. այն է մեր «իմաստութիւն»-ը, նոյնիսկ եթէ աշխարհի աչքին «յիմարութիւն» սեպուի: Եւ ուժեղ կը փայլէ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին, որքան ատեն որ գիտակցաբար կ'ընտրենք Աւետարանի «հոգեկեցոյց՝ սկզբունքներն արդէն որդեգրած»՝ անոնց համեմատ ապրիլ:

Այս տարի կը տօնենք մեր Եկեղեցիին հարիւր եօթանասուն ամեակը: Տօնէն ետք՝ սակայն, որքան ալ փոխուին, պիտի փսան մեզ շրջապատող մարտահրաւերներէն շատերը եւ բարեկարգութեան անգանցառելի կարիքները, անձնական թէ՛ հաւաքական մակարդակներով. մանաւանդ՝ անոնց վրայ պիտի աւելնան նոր կարիքներ, ազգային թէ՛ համամարդկային մակարդակներու վրայ: Ուրեմն, թող մեզմէ ոչ մէկը իր անկիւնը քաշուի՝ տօնը բաւարար սեպելով: Թող ռեւէ մէկը տակաւին տուն չերթայ:

Վեր. Մկրտիչ Գարակեօզեան

Նախագահ, Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Միութեան



Cover Art Work: To God Be the Glory

Technique: Acrylic painting on canvas

Size: 72x54 inches

Artist: Lucy Boyadjian Janjigian

Painted in 1986, on the occasion of the 140th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church. Mount Ararat in the background where Noah's Ark landed represents a symbol of hope to all Armenians. Below the Mother Church is Mesrob Mashdots, who invented the Armenian Alphabet specifically to translate the Bible into Armenian from the original Greek. This Armenian translation of the Bible is called the "Queen of Translations." On the arch the letter Է (E) stands for Աստուած (God), and the group surrounding the table represents people immersed in Bible study.

A widely traveled painter, muralist and sculptor, Lucy was born of Armenian descent in Jerusalem where she attended English Mission schools. She received her B.A. in Biology from Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio, and her M.S. in Plant Ecology from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Painting became her passion and she developed into an award winning artist after many years of study at the Art Students League and the Stacy Studio Workshop in New York City.

Lucy has repeatedly been commissioned for paintings, murals, magazine and church bulletin covers, book jackets, children's book illustrations, Christmas cards and stamps.

This painting currently adorns one of the walls in the Board Room of the AEUNA Headquarters in Glendale, CA.

A Message of Hope from the Near East

The Armenian Evangelical Church Taking the Message of Hope to the Next Generation

By Dr. Hrayr Jebejian

As an Armenian born and raised in Lebanon, I have lived with the dual identities and histories that have been examples of struggle and survival: the first one, Lebanese, with its local and regional conflicts, and the second one, Armenian, in its perseverance for a national identity and a solution to a just cause – the recognition of the first ethnic cleansing of the 20th Century, the Armenian Genocide. The two have one thing in common – the struggle to build a life in the midst of uncertainties, a life that goes much further than the personal dimension and embraces different aspects of the community at large.

Rev. Hovhannes Karjian writes, "The mission aim of the Armenian Evangelical Church was to reform the Armenian Church, nevertheless, its mandate, like any other church, includes the world as well." In this respect, my Armenian Evangelical training also shaped my career to serve Armenian and international communities through the United Bible Societies with the Word of God that provides hope for a better life.

My journey in the pursuit of hope started in 1975, the year the Civil War in Lebanon broke out. This was also the year when as a fresh high school graduate I lost my father. Life turned to be a mission for a young boy who did not enjoy the carelessness and carefree attitude of many his age.

My struggle is not confined to the Lebanese Civil War experience. It is ongoing, because of the Arab Spring, the ethnic and denominational upheavals throughout the Arab region, the threat posed by ISIS, and the continuous persecution of Christians and other minorities. All these are present challenges to my life in the Middle East. And I ask myself, how can I survive in a region like this? How can I have a meaningful life based on good values? How can I find values in the midst of death, fear and suicide bombings? Often, it seems to me that peace is a mirage in the desert.

My queries go on. As a member of the Armenian Evangelical Church, where do I stand in relation to other Armenian denominations? As a member of the Diaspora in Lebanon, where do I stand in relation to communities scattered around the world?

Rev. Hovhannes Aharonian writes that the Bible and its perspectives eventually form the identity of the individual who in turn establishes an entity, a community in life. Indeed, the hope of the Bible has helped me to create an identity for myself and a sense of belonging to an entity that I cherish. In the same vein, Rev. Yeghia Kassouni believes that "the Armenian Evangelical teaching is based on liberal principles, enhances freedom of conscious, stimulates critical thinking, encourages other lines of thought, and establishes moderation in the person's community life and relationships." These principles have significantly punctuated my personal, professional and spiritual growth in life.

Interestingly enough, Walter Brueggemann explains that newness in one's life is given by God and is supposed to be the only serious source of energy. He clarifies his assertion by linking Exodus with what Jesus did on the cross. For him, Jesus' death and resurrection is the ultimate Exodus where we learn that hope is never generated among us but always given to us. Walter Brueggemann believes that the task of prophetic ministry and imagination is to bring people to engage with their experiences of suffering and death, an experience that energizes and links people to hope. He explains that this hope helps the individual cut through the despair that seems to have no end or resolution.

In this context, these same pains have enriched my life in seeking and finding the hope of the Scripture. This same hope has made me realize that it is possible to live, prosper and dream irrespective of my hybrid identities and homelands. This same hope has made me a proud Armenian and an equally proud Lebanese. This hope has challenged me to understand the Other and the pain of the Other. This hope helps me to be pro-active in creating newness in my life and in the lives of many others. By encouraging communities to be engaged with the Bible, I have personally witnessed the lives of people from "the four corners of the earth" change after engaging with God's Word.

The political scene in the Middle East and the rest of the world seems to be gloomy and uncertain. The socio-economic factors are even less encouraging. What can be done in a region and a world where there is no hope for a better life?

Rev. Hovhannes Aharonian used to say that the Church is an integral part of the community but never like it. The Church cannot live and exist in a pot. To flourish and survive, it needs to get involved in the community. The survival of the Church is not similar to the one in the world. It is the survival of value, the value of a life that generates hope when all is enveloped in despair.

This, in fact, symbolizes the very journey of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The Armenian Evangelical Church has remained faithful to its Armenianness (Hayasdanyayts) since its formation in 1846 and has played a crucial role in the life of Armenia and Armenian communities worldwide. Besides being instrumental in translating the Bible from classical into modern Armenian, the Armenian Evangelical Church opened schools for girls, established colleges, seminaries, and medical facilities that offered holistic services to all Armenians, thus contributing immensely to the educational, spiritual, social, cultural, medical, and religious wellbeing of the Armenian nation. Simply put, the Armenian Evangelical Church has been the true embodiment of the biblical hope that contributed to the resurrection of the Armenian after each and every calamity



since the pogroms, the Genocide, the Civil War in Lebanon, the Earthquake, the Independence, and the current bloodshed in Syria.

And now, the Armenian Evangelical Church has reached a new milestone – the 170th Anniversary of an honorable, glorious, monumental, immaculate service and ministry. I agree with Rev. Hovhannes Karjian who poses the following challenge that the Armenian Evangelical Church should always be dynamic and not confined to its comfort zone. It should always be on the move. He says, "It should first move backwards to its origins and get energized

from and with the passion of its founders. Then, move forward and take this passion in a renewed spirit to the future generation."

The passion is the hope of the Bible, the hope that eradicates despair and changes lives by making new beginnings a tangible reality. It is the mandate of the Armenian Evangelical Church to continue in its challenge to take this message of hope to the next generations. □

** Dr Hrayr Jebejian is the General Secretary of the Bible Society in the Arabian Gulf.*

Official Call to the 97th Annual Meeting Of the Armenian Missionary Association of America



The 97th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, 100 N. Edmonds Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the Meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters and Affiliated Boards of the Association for the fiscal year 2015-2016;
- II. Review the financial reports for the fiscal year 2015-2016;
- III. Announce the names of the newly elected Board members;
- IV. Elect members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor; and
- VI. Consider and address any other business that may come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 97th ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 20th at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church

6:00pmDinner
7:00pmArmenian Evangelical World Council Meeting

Friday, October 21st at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church

9:30amArmenian Evangelical World Council Meeting
12:00pmLunch
6:00pmDinner
7:00pmAMAA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 22nd at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church

9:30am97th Annual Meeting
12:30pmLunch
1:30pmAMAA Board of Directors Meeting (Short Session)

Saturday, October 22nd at the Philadelphia Marriott West

6:00 pm Reception
7:00 pm Dinner

Sunday, October 23rd at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church

11:00 am97th Annual Meeting Worship Service and Installation of AMAA Officers

Meet Our Veteran Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Solomon Alexander Nigosian

By **Mihran Jizmejian**, AMAC President

Solomon, also known as Solo, was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1932. He grew up in an Armenian Evangelical family and a larger church family – The Armenian Evangelical Church of Alexandria.

He received his general certificate of education (GCE) in 1949 and a Sunday School teacher's certificate from the Evangelical Teacher Training Association, USA in 1953. He received a certificate of mechanical drafting in 1956 from Montreal Institute of Mechanical Drafting, and in 1957, he was awarded a diploma in estimating from the Toronto Graphic Arts Association.

In 1955 he left Egypt with his family and settled in Toronto, Canada, where he started and organized the Sunday School at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Toronto from 1957-1960.

A small group of Armenian Evangelical families resolved to establish an Armenian Evangelical Church in Toronto in 1960. They elected a Church Council of five members and selected Solo as their lay preacher. Soon after the Armenian Evangelical Union of Eastern States took the newly formed church under its umbrella, they ordained Mr. Nigosian to Christian ministry in 1963.

Rev. Nigosian was a full-time minister until 1968. He served diligently, helped establish organization in the Church, strengthened the ties of his Church with other Armenian churches, and with the help of the Church Council, drafted the Church's Constitution and published the Canada Armenian Press. From 1968-1970, he served as the interim Minister of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit. During this period, he was involved in the Armenian Evangelical Union of Eastern States and Canada and became Moderator of the latter from 1968 to 1969. Prior to his election, he was a member of the Union's Board. In 1971, when the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) was formed, the new Board appointed him Associate Editor of the Armenian-American Outlook.

Upon his resignation from the Church, Rev. Nigosian pursued an academic career and received his B.A. degree from the University of Toronto (Victoria College) in 1968. In 1970, he received his M.A. degree in religious studies from

McMaster University and in 1975 the McMaster University awarded him a doctorate degree, with a major in ancient Near East (Hebrew Bible) and minors in early Christianity and Hindu religious history.

Academic Career 1972-2012

While still at the University, Rev. Nigosian started his teaching career, teaching Hebrew Bible, New Testament and World Religions and became a Professor of Religion and Near Eastern Studies. Having achieved language competence in Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, French, Armenian, Syriac and Koine Greek, Rev. Nigosian indulged in research work.

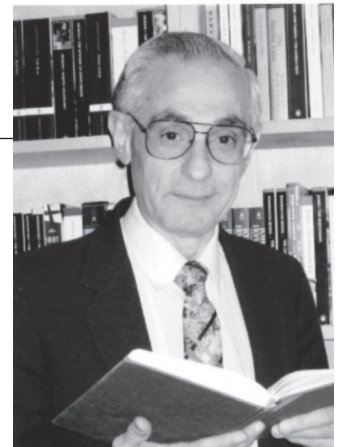
Publications: Books and Articles

Over the years, Rev. Nigosian authored the following books: World Religions, Occultism in the Old Testament, Modes of Worship, Judaism, Islam, Date of the Song of Moses, World Faiths, From Ancient Writings to Sacred Texts: The Old Testament and the Apocrypha, The Zoroastrian Faith: Tradition and Modern Research, The Middle Eastern Founders of Religion: Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, Zoroaster. He also published over 20 articles in academic scholarly journals and over 30 articles in church periodicals.

Scholarships, Awards

Rev. Nigosian has received over 20 scholarships from different sources, including the Department of External Affairs (Government of Canada), Ministry of Culture and Recreation (Ontario Government), and Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council. He is the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto. In 2012 he was named Associate Emeritus, Victoria College University of Toronto.

Rev. Nigosian and his wife, Hnazant, who passed away in 2007, had two children (a boy and a girl); four grandchildren (three boys and a girl) and two great grandchildren (a boy and a girl). Rev. Nigosian currently resides in Toronto where he enjoys his grandchildren and great grandchildren. □



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AMAA Executive Director/CEO Visits the Mission Field in Australia

2016 marks the 15th Anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia (AMA- Australia). Since its inception, AMA-Australia has provided the best possible volunteer work through its Board of Directors, no paid staff, and under the leadership and advice of its President and Executive Director Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian.

To help celebrate this milestone, Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), and his wife Sona travelled to Australia from March 31 – April 12. During their brief but fruitful visit, they encouraged AMA-Australia and the Church Community with their inspiring words and warm fellowship.

Their visit began with a Welcome Dinner at the Social Hall of the Armenian Evangelical Uniting Church of Sydney with the AMA-Australia Board, together with the Church Council and committee members. It was an informal night of fellowship where old friendships were rekindled and new friendships formed. Mr. Khanjian briefly

talked about the work that the AMAA is doing around the world and the future directions that are planned.

On Sunday, April 3, Mr. Khanjian preached at the AMAA Sunday Service held at the Armenian Evangelical Uniting Church. His message exhorted all to reflect the light and love of Christ not only in words but also in deeds, as individual believers and also collectively as the body of Christ. Rev. Dr. Youmshajekian presented a brief report to the congregation about the activities of the past 15 years and thanked Rev. Hagop Sarkissian, Pastor of the Church, and the congregation for their partnership. An Appreciation Luncheon followed at St. Andrew's Uniting Church Memorial Hall in Longueville, to thank the generous sponsors and dedicated volunteers of AMA-Australia over the past 15 years.

During his visit, Mr. Khanjian met with the Board of Directors of AMA-Australia to discuss future directions and plans. His encouragement and advice were much appreciated. He highlighted the AMAA Centennial Capital Campaign and encouraged the Board to embrace it as part of the AMAA family.

On Wednesday and Thursday, April 6 and 7, Mr. Khanjian presented two lectures to the Armenian Community. The first was about the prominent journalist Hrant Dink, who was martyred almost ten years ago for his outspoken advocacy about the misfortunes of the Armenians during the Armenian Genocide. The second lecture was about notable unsung heroes during the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Khanjian presented the lives and the tremendous work done by Rev. Aharon Shirajian, Rev. Dikran Antrianian and Hrant Guzelian. Both lectures were well attended and highlighted the positive influence of God's word through Armenian Evangelical preaching, teaching and education in the lives of the Armenian community in the Middle East. The AMAA is striving to continue this work, despite the ever increasing instability in the region. Mrs. Khanjian capably read excerpts from the books that Zaven Khanjian had authored, impressing the audience.

On Sunday, April 10, Mr. Khanjian preached once again from God's word at the Sunday morning Worship Service of Armenian Evangelical Uniting Church of Sydney.



AMAA-Australia Board members cut the 15th Anniversary Celebration cake. L to R: Dr. Mark Cholakyan, Thomas Thomassian, Avo Soghomonian, Datevig and Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian, Zaven Khanjian, Rev. Hagop Sarkissian, Sona Khanjian, Apraham Ishkhanian, Lena Bomoushakian, Asdghig Manoukian and Sossie Paproumian.

Following the Church service, the 15th Anniversary Fundraising Luncheon of AMA-Australia was held at the Hamazkayin Arshak and Sophie Galstaun College Nalbandian Hall. A sub-committee, made up of several talented and enthusiastic youth, planned, organized and managed the event. The theme was "Armenian Village" with its Bread and Cheese table, in keeping with last year's project of AMA-Australia of renovating Choratan Village School Playground on the northeast border of Armenia.

On this special occasion, the AMA-Australia website was launched (amaaust.org.au), and the achievements of the past 15 years were detailed in a short presentation, highlighting the over \$632,000 raised to support relief and educational projects in the Middle East and Armenia. Mr. Khanjian addressed the guests, thanked them for their support and encouraged them to continue with this noble mission. Mr. Khanjian recognized the President and the Board of Directors of AMA-Australia and presented each of them with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Through the generous gifts of sponsors and guests, over \$40,000 was raised to support various relief projects. The completion of a special project was announced to restore the Memorial Hall of the Armenian Evangelical Central High School of Ashrafieh in Beirut, Lebanon, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Mick and Nora Rozanski. The establishment of an endowment fund of \$500,000 in the name of Anthony Rozanski Memorial Fund was also announced to provide scholarships to outstanding students at the Central High School of Ashrafieh in Beirut.

On Sunday April 3, Mr. Khanjian had a Radio Hour interview with the Australia Armenian Hour of Special Broadcasting Service – SBC, presenting the history of AMAA, its worldwide activities, the Syrian conflict and the situation of the Armenians in Syria, especially in Aleppo. In the evening, upon the Primate's invitation, Mr. and Mrs. Khanjian, accompanied by Rev. Dr. Youmshajekian and Rev. Sarkissian, attended the Inaugural Banquet of the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

During his visit, Mr. Khanjian also paid a formal visit to Bishop Haigazoun Najarian, as well as the leadership of the Uniting Church of Australia. He expressed his appreciation to the Uniting Church of Australia for officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide at the 14th Triennial Assembly which was held on July 12-18, 2015. President of Uniting Church of Australia Stuart McMillan thanked Mr. Khanjian

for his visit and presented him with a copy of the Assembly's Armenian Genocide Recognition Resolution.

"Down Under is....Up Above," said Mr. Khanjian at the conclusion of his visit. "We have a vibrant, God loving, passionate and a very hospitable community in Australia with a wealth of potential in all that is good for God and the nation." □



Banquet guests celebrate the 15th Anniversary of AMA-Australia.



Zaven Khanjian delivers a lecture at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, Australia.



President of Uniting Church of Australia Stuart McMillan presents Zaven Khanjian with a copy of the Assembly's Armenian Genocide Recognition Resolution.



Zaven Khanjian with Bishop Haigazoun Najarian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese in Australia and New Zealand.

Historic Gathering in South America

By Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian and Levon Filian

As brothers and sisters in Christ gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina this April, it was clear to all that the Spirit of God was at work bringing about deeper fellowship in worship and service to the greater Armenian Evangelical family.

On Saturday, April 9, representatives from the AEUNA and AMAA gathered for a convocation with leaders from the three Armenian Evangelical churches of South America – the Central Evangelical Armenian Church of São Paulo, Brazil (represented by Hampartzoum and Vartan Moumdjian), the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montevideo, Uruguay (represented by Rev. Obed Boyadjian, and Haigazun, Robert and Aram Moumdjian), and the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church of Buenos Aires, Argentina (represented by Pastor Ara Mkhitarian, Brother Enoch Elmassian, Armando Betahian, Roberto DerTorosian and Armen Hayetian).

As each group spoke of their respective histories and ministries, there emerged a sincere desire to draw closer to one another and strengthen the bonds that unite them to each other and all of us to the Lord. One of those churches (São Paulo) had already joined as a full member of the AEUNA a number of years ago. The upcoming General Assembly of the AEUNA will be a time of great celebration as the delegates vote on two applications, broadening the Union to welcome our three Evangelical Churches of South America into our Union.

A delegation of five traveled from North America to participate in this gathering of churches as well as to ordain a candidate, Ara Mkhitarian, to the Christian ministry. Members of the delegation were: Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Minister to the AEUNA; Rev. Dr.



Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Ara Chakerian, AEUNA Evangelism Committee; Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, AEUNA Ministry Committee; Rev. Ara Guekguezian, AMAA Board member; and Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director. On Sunday morning April 10, an overflow crowd, including ecumenical guests, filled the Church sanctuary and hall to witness the ordination of two pastors, Ara Mkhitarian, a native of Armenia, and its Argentinian pastor, Jorge Soncini.

Ara's ministry has been in a great part among the many newly-arrived immigrants from Armenia, while Jorge's has been with the Spanish-speaking portion of the congregation (both Armenian and non-Armenian). A three-hour service included a stirring sermon by



Representatives of AMAA and AEUNA gather for a convocation with the leaders of the three churches of South America.



Worship Service at the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montevideo, Uruguay.



Ordination of Pastors Ara Mkhitarian and Jorge Soncini into Christian Ministry.

Rev. Djambazian, who invoked God's challenge to Moses to take up the staff of pastoral leadership (translated into Spanish by worship leader Enoc Elmassian).

Greetings came from the AEUNA via Rev. Guekguezian, as well as from Rev. Joe Matossian, both of whom have a long-standing relationship with Ara. Mr. Filian brought greetings from the entire AMAA, which supported Ara in his education. The Archbishop of the Armenian Apostolic Church, His Excellency Kissag Mouradian was there in person to offer his prayers and wishes, and a representative of the Eparch, Msgr. Vartan W. Boghossian also expressed warm greetings and congratulations. Both ordinands gave their faith testimonies before kneeling at the front of the Church for the ordination. Revs. Djambazian, Chakerian and Bakalian were the three AEUNA pastors laying hands on Ara, among the many clergy praying for God's blessing on both of these servants of Christ.

These events were preceded by a short visit to the Armenian community of Montevideo from April 5-7 by Revs. Djambazian

and Chakerian and Mr. Filian, and led by the soon-to-be ordained Ara Mkhitarian and Armando Betahian. The delegates were hosted by the owners of Los Angeles Hotel of Montevideo, Jeremias and Rosetta Elmassians, and by Haigazun Moundjian, who hosted all meals. Pastor Boyadjian, and council members Haigazun Moundjian, Martin Khachadourian and Hovanes Chopourian warmly welcomed them.

A Worship Service and a community gathering were held at the Montevideo church. Mr. Filian conveyed greetings from the AMAA, Rev. Chakerian brought greetings from AEUNA, and Rev. Djambazian gave an inspiring message. Community leaders present at the event were Garabed Arakelian, representative of ASCUA (Uruguay Armenian Cultural Association), Alicia Aprahamian, representing the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Uruguay, Ruben Cuitino, delegate of the Roman Catholic Church,



AMAA and AEUNA delegation meet with Archbishop Kissag Mouradian, the Primate of the Armenian Church of Argentina and Chile.



AMAA and AEUNA delegation meet with Archbishop Hagop Keledjian of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Montevideo, Uruguay, the Administrators of the two Armenian schools, the directors of the two Armenian Radio Hours, representatives of the Armenian political parties, and representatives of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

Prof. Juan Bodukian, Director of the Armenian College of AGBU, Pastor Pablo Chadarevian from the Armenian Brotherhood Church, Pastor Adolfo Tome from the Methodist Church, and several other guests and dignitaries.

While in Montevideo the delegates visited the Armenian community, Armenian schools and the Armenian Apostolic Church. They were received by Archbishop Hagop Keledjian of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Administrators of the two Armenian schools. Also, at the invitation of the Archbishop, the team attended an Armenian community meeting to discuss the latest conflict in Karabagh. Mr. Filian again brought greetings, thanked them for their efforts, and encouraged them to continue their support for their brothers and sisters in the Homeland.

Back in Argentina, the delegation visited the two vibrant Armenian schools of Buenos Aires (the Marie Manougian School and the St. Gregory the Illuminator School), the A.G.B.U. Armenian Center, to the Armenian Apostolic and Armenian Catholic Patriarchates, and the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia (Ester Mkrtumyan, Consul). The warmth and appreciation of the Argentinian Armenian community leaders made it clear how crucial it is that ties between the two Americas be strengthened, as we face similar challenges in our church and ethnic lives.

Jesus Christ, the Lord of the church, will continue to help us develop these ties with our brothers and sisters in South America, bringing about not only the blessings of an ever-growing Armenian Evangelical family, but enabling each member of the family to offer strength and encouragement to all the other members, as we do what makes for peace and mutual edification (Rom. 14.19). May God be praised in the church for evermore! □



AEUNA Delegates meet with Msgr. Vartan W. Boghossian, Eparch of the Armenian Exarchate of Latin America.



AMAA and AEUNA Representatives meet with Consul Ester Mkrtumyan at the Embassy of Armenia in Argentina.

→ AMAA Centennial Kick-Off To Honor Orphan & Child Care Committee

By Phillis Hamo

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has announced that its Centennial Kick-Off Celebration will pay tribute to a major supporting group, the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee, at a Banquet planned for October 8, 2016 at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles. According to Banquet Co-Chairs Jack Muncherian and Gary Phillips, Esq., the third floor ballroom of the historic downtown Club has been reserved for the event which will honor the creative and hard working West Coast Orphan and Child Care Committee, an organization celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Paul Kalemkarian has accepted the role of Master of Ceremonies.

In the aftermath of the devastating Armenia earthquake of 1988, the AMAA rushed in to help. Many children were killed or injured, many were left orphans, and some were taken abroad for treatment. In 1991, the same year that Armenian Independence was declared, the Orphan and Child Care Committee was established. This Committee has concentrated on changing children's lives and giving them hope for a better future "one child at a time."

With poverty an issue, families in Armenia cannot always care for their own, resulting in children who live in extreme poverty (even though one or both parents may still be alive). That is when AMAA Orphan and Child Care Support steps in.

Levon Filian (PH 818-937-9840) the AMAA's West Coast Executive Director and Louisa Janbazian (PH 201-745-7496) AMAA PR/Communications Coordinator, can be contacted for information. AMAA West Coast office is located at 1101 N. Pacific Ave., Suite 301, Glendale, CA 91202.



Banquet Co-Chairs Gary Phillips, Esq., left, Jack Muncherian, right, and Emcee Paul Kalemkarian.



AMAA Provides Food and Shelter to Evacuees from Martakert

The recent shelling of the peaceful settlements of the Mataghis and Martakert regions of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic (Artsakh/NKR) resulted in major destruction. Homes, shops, and community centers have been completely or partially destroyed. To ensure the safety of the citizens of the Martakert region, the local population has been evacuated, while the fathers and adult males of these families remain on the front line defending the Homeland.

The evacuees were provided temporary shelter by the NKR government. Some evacuees were accommodated in Stepanakert, and some took shelter at the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) Camp Bedrosian in Shushi, until safer conditions prevailed. Camp Bedrosian housed around 180 people (about 120 of them were children and teenagers) from the Maragha, Karmiravan, Mataghis, Maghavuz, and Horatagh communities of the Martakert region. The AMAA provided food, shelter and organized a Camp program for the children. Also, the AMAA, on behalf of the *Stitched With Love* Program, distributed knitted items including blankets, hats and jackets to families with little children. The mothers were so appreciative that they wrote special Thank You letters to the AMAA for these gifts and for all the love and care shown to them.

"While the courageous people of Karabagh defend the Homeland, it is our absolute duty and obligation to reach out," said Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA. "Doing our share, the AMAA places our facilities in NKR at the disposal of our displaced kin to provide safety and security in a comfortable temporary shelter." □



*Families with little children receive knitted blankets, hats and jackets from AMAA **Stitched With Love**.*

Haigazian University Alumni Organize 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner in Dubai, UAE

On March 11, the Alumni Committee-Gulf Chapter of Haigazian University organized its first annual Gala Dinner in the presence of the Lebanese and Armenian Ambassadors and brought together more than 300 graduates, friends and supporters of the University. The guests celebrated not only the solid academic programs of the University and its heritage, but also the warm family atmosphere it has created and still creates on its campus in Kantari, Beirut, which constitutes a peaceful and enriching space for Lebanese youth of diverse backgrounds, along with students from outside Lebanon.

After a word of salutation by Zeina Daccache, an alumna of Haigazian as well as the MC for the night, Vatche Keverian, Chairman of the Alumni Committee-Gulf Chapter, was introduced and addressed the audience. Ms. Daccache then led the program of live music and recognitions.

President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian gave his celebratory remarks, highlighting the fact that Haigazian University, throughout its history, has not only aimed at bridging the gap among the youth of Lebanon and the financially able and the needy, but that is has also tried to construct towers of academic and human excellence in various ways. He expressed his pride in the accomplishments of the alumni spread all around the globe, and considered the support of the financially and socially challenged students as of critical importance. He thanked the Gulf Chapter and all the supporters and sponsors for



their unwavering commitment to and trust in Haigazian University, and wished for continued success in their joint efforts. The funds raised on this occasion will support the scholarship program at the University. As a token of appreciation, President Haidostian awarded Mr. Keverian the special medal of the 60th Anniversary.

The program included live music, and was concluded with cutting of the Anniversary cake by President Haidostian who was flanked by a large number of proud alumni.

Prior to the Gala Dinner, the Ambassador of Lebanon, His Excellency Hasan Saad hosted a luncheon in honor of Dr. Haidostian, in the presence of a number of Lebanese community leaders in Abu Dhabi. □

Meet our Staff at AMAA

Lucy Rastguelenian, Manager of Sponsorship and Scholarship Department

Lucy Rastguelenian joined the AMAA as Manager of the Sponsorship and Scholarship Department in July 2014. Her passion to work with children has translated into her being able to help needy children in Armenia and the Middle East by connecting them with passionate donors who are eager to help. She also oversees the scholarship process for the AMAA Scholarship Program which helps students attend college and eventually contribute to the Armenian community in their respective locations. She is dedicated to further enhance the AMAA's mission to expand the Child Sponsorship ministry throughout Armenia, Lebanon and Syria.

Lucy is a graduate of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. Following graduation, she became Supervisor of the Computer Lab at her alma mater Haigazian University until she married her husband Nerses and moved to the United States in 1996.

She and Nerses settled in New Jersey and are raising two wonderful children, Talaar and Nahreg, who are in their early teens. She enjoys playing the piano and joins with family members who are also talented in many areas. Lucy serves the Lord at the Armenian Brotherhood Bible Church in New Milford, NJ. □



Latest From Syria



*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **Isaiah 41:10***

Today we still experience a war that has been raging in Syria for the past five years. It is reported that the conflict has claimed the lives of over 470,000 people, injured 1.9 million others and displaced nearly half of the pre-war population of about 23 million within or beyond Syria's borders. The Syrian people are also experiencing a variety of hardships including isolation and insecurity, psychological distress, and extended disruptions of education and employment.

In Aleppo, life is becoming increasingly expensive and very difficult to cope with and there is a constant lack of necessities. Normal electricity is something people have forgotten about. Water is also a problem.

Unfortunately, at this time like the past several years there is a major security threat to all citizens of Aleppo. The sound of shells and grenades can be heard any time of the day and night and could target any place at any time.

As we receive updates from our kin in Syria, we ask that you continue to uphold them in your prayers. With your help, the AMAA remains steadfast with unwavering determination to continue uninterrupted assistance.



YES, I would like to help our brothers and sisters in Syria. Enclosed is my gift of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Tel: _____

Make tax deductible donations to the Armenian Missionary Association of America earmarked for Syria Relief, and mail to 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please call AMAA at 201.265.2607 or visit our website, www.amaa.org.

AMAA Celebrates 25th Anniversary of the Orphan and Child Care Program

Sold Out Luncheon on March 12 at the Beverly Hills Hotel

On March 12, the Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel was the beautiful setting of the 25th Anniversary of the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) Orphan and Child Care Program. Luncheon Co-Chairs Christina Jabarian, Melody Petrossian and Christine Zenjiryan worked tirelessly to make every aspect of the Luncheon enjoyable for more than 500 guests and supporters. They warmly welcomed the sold out crowd and introduced the dynamic Emcee for the day, LindaKay Abdulian, who was the commentator for the first children's fashion show in 1997. This year, AMAA's Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian delivered a moving devotional and prayer and gave a brief history of the ladies who first started the Committee.

The flowers, generously donated by Zareh David Ghoukassian of David Z Design, were breathtaking! And this year's Silent Auction was spectacular with more than 150 items to bid on! Nicole Nishanian, Silent Auction Chair, procured many amazing items, including several designer handbags, lots of beautiful jewelry, and much, much more. There were many opportunities to help the needy children by sponsoring a child, purchasing food or clothing for a year, or by purchasing a Bible for the children to read. This effort was coordinated by Maro Yacoubian and Tina Segel, who organized the Child Sponsorship table and encouraged

everyone to make a difference in the life of a needy child in Armenia. Many children were sponsored at the Luncheon.

Joyce Stein, esteemed advisor and National Co-Chair of the Orphan and Child Care Committee, acknowledged the ladies who organized the first several children's fashion shows. The first show was at the Hotel Sofitel with Christina Jabarian as Chair. The next several luncheons were chaired by LindaKay Abdulian and Michelle Shrikian. Joyce thanked them for all their years of hard work and effort!

Tina Segel created and introduced the video commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Orphan and Child Care Program. The video showed how many children and their

families have been helped by the AMAA for many generations.

After lunch, as a special surprise before the Fashion Show, several children from the Dynamic Duo Dance Studio performed for the audience! This accomplished and very talented group of dancers was enjoyed by everyone. The children's Fashion Show and dance performance was coordinated and introduced by Betty Balian. This year, the Fashion Show was sponsored and produced by Bloomingdale's Sherman Oaks. The Bloomingdale's Sherman Oak's team, along with the Committee, worked tirelessly to make the Fashion Show a complete success and to make sure the presentation by more than fifty breathtaking children and



LA area AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee members.

teenagers in this year's show was perfect and seamless. Christina Jabarian thanked Bloomingdale's for its partnership and participation in this year's event which was very much appreciated. This year, Aleen Oruncakci coordinated the models and the fittings for the Fashion Show.

Finance and Reservations Chair Sandra Kalemkiarian works tirelessly every year to efficiently close out the Auction. "We are grateful for the generous donations

we received in celebration of our 25th Anniversary," said Sandra.

The guests left the event with a bag full of goodies, including amazing lotions and nail care products donated by Jessica Vartoughian of Jessica Cosmetics, dried fruits donated by LindaKay Abdulian, cookies donated by Leslie Kevorkian, and jams, Panettoni and other items donated by Christine Zenjiryan. The children also received wonderful goodie bags.

In closing, Lori Muncherian and Arsine Phillips, West Coast Co-Chairs of the Committee, thanked the chairs, the entire Committee and all the donors for their continued support of this event for the children in Armenia. Many children in Armenia lack the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. "We are trying to help change a child's life and give hope for a better future one child at a time," concluded Lori and Arsine. □

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian's Remarks at the Orphan and Child Care Luncheon

Conception of an idea, project or invention requires alertness, observation and imagination. From these factors a vision is born which thru a process of planning turns into a mission.

After the devastating earthquake in Armenia in 1988, the need to do something was explored by the AMAA. The spark came from Mary Najarian, who having observed the conditions of the orphans, had the vision of indispensable necessity to act.

Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian, then Executive Director of the AMAA, was contacted and the Orphan Care Committee was created, chaired by Elizabeth Agbabian on the West Coast and Michele Simourian on the East Coast. The founding members were: Joyce Abdulian, Elizabeth Agbabian, Hermine Janoyan, Grace Kurkjian, Mary Najarian, Savey Tufenkian and Joyce Stein.

Fast forward, the support grew and so did the events. Soon the first Children's Fashion Show was held at the Hotel Sofitel and was chaired by Christina Jabarian.

This morning we hail and salute all the above named women and many more for their mission turned vision which has evolved into this magnificent event that we are all here for today.

On behalf of the AMAA and thousands of Armenian Children, thank you ladies.



Siranush Ghukasyan, from AMAA Child Sponsorship Program, is Armenia's Chess Champion in Junior Girls Championship

The AMAA congratulates Siranush Ghukasyan, who for the 8th time became Armenia's Chess Champion in the Junior Girls (Under 18) Championship. Seventeen year-old Siranush, a teenager from the AMAA's Sponsorship Program in Armenia, has been playing chess for the past 10 years. By placing first in her division at the Armenian Youth Championship, held at the Chess Academy of Armenia, she won a trip to the World Chess Youth Championship this summer.

We also wish her success in the Open Chess Championship which will be held soon in Georgia. We are very proud of our next generation!

Siranush Ghukasyan, Chess Champion



Every Armenian Has a Martyr in His Soul – H.M.M.

AMAA Presents Dr. Markarian's Book "The Martyred Armenian Writers" at APC in Paramus, NJ

By Taleen Kupelian

With the 101st Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide quickly approaching, now is a more poignant time than ever to celebrate the Armenian culture rather than mourn its loss. Accomplished author, scientist, professor, playwright, poet, translator, actor, literary and theater critic, and director, Dr. Herand M. Markarian does just that with his latest publication, an anthology titled "The Martyred Armenian Writers (1915-1922)."

All those present at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ on March 18th, heard the words of the greats brought to life in a moving performance with help from a number of the community's youth – Nick Aynilian Jr., Raffi Aynilian, Vatche Demirjian, Richard Hekemian, Anoush Kalachian, Niree Kaprielian, and Melani Salibian.

This special event, titled "The Literary Works of 13 Armenian Martyred Writers," began with remarks by AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian and included a brief biography of the honored guest. Mr. Khanjian qualified the literature of the 19th and early 20th centuries "as superb, distinct ...and deserving to be read, enjoyed and spread." Dr. Markarian's enlightening slide show that followed these remarks highlighted the accomplishments of the 13 writers featured in his book.

Dr. Markarian's anthology is brilliantly segmented into three parts, each one a pertinent background about the time the subject matter was written. The first part contains general introductions to Western Armenian literature of the 19th century. The second part contains a foundation for understanding the Armenian Genocide. In the final section, the readers are provided with short biographies of 13 of the most beloved Armenian writers of the era along with a bibliography of their writing and excerpts from each author (in English).



Dr. Herand M. Markarian



Dr. Herand Markarian signs his books for the guests.

While there are certain nuances that may get lost in translation, Dr. Markarian's anthology is as good as it gets. Dr. Markarian (with skillful help) has translated the works of the 13 featured authors. In his book, the author beautifully records the classic and powerful words of the martyred Armenians during the Armenian Genocide proving that whether it's one or 101 years that have passed, these writings have truly stood the test of time!

The literary program was brought to a moving close by the dynamic aforementioned performance and was followed by a delectable reception graciously organized by Seta Nalbandian, Anita Buchakjian and Berjouhi Gulesserian.

To order Dr. Markarian's book "The Martyred Armenian Writers," please visit AMAA's website at www.amaa.org, or contact the AMAA at 201-265-2607 or info@amaa.org. □

LARK and AMAA: Presentation of J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion - Inspirational

By Joyce Abdulian

If the music of heaven could be heard on earth, the LARK Musical Society and the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) presentation of Johann Sebastian Bach's St. Matthew Passion was a joyous representation of what awaits us.

At the First United Methodist Church of Glendale, CA the LARK Musical Society and the AMAA once again joined forces on Sunday, March 13, 2016 to present one of the world's greatest masterpieces – St. Matthew Passion, under the direction of beloved Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian. Maestro Barsoumian explained: "Through J.S. Bach's work, written almost 300 years ago, we can still partake in and relive the tribulations and passion of our Lord, who undertook all torture and even death for the sake of our personal spiritual salvation."

As the voices of the choir soared, the soloists sang, and the orchestra performed, the overflow audience abandoned themselves to the music of Bach and the depiction of Christ's great sacrifice. Each scene matched with its response, either chorally or individually by a soloist, rendered in beautiful music, created a whole that at the end was an undeniably humbling Lenten experience. Supertitles in German, Armenian and English allowed for a close following of the Oratorio, to better understand each moment of Christ's passion.

Distinguished vocal soloists were David Plaster as the Evangelist (tenor), Steve Pence as Jesus (bass), Shoushik Barsoumian (soprano), Garineh Avakian and Victoria Avetisyan (altos), Yeghishe Manucharayan (tenor), and Scott Graff and Vincent Robles (basses). Also notable were the impressive instrumental soloists Armen DerKevorkian and Sarkis Gyurgechyan (violins), Salpi Kerkonian (flute), Michelle Forrest (oboe), and Yevgeni Tonkha (cello). Deserving special notice were Edward Murray (organ) and Victoria Simonian (cem-



Ken Kevorkian, AMAA Board member and St. Matthew Passion Concert Organizing Committee Chair, welcomes the audience.

balo), who throughout the piece served as an underlying unifying force for the whole ensemble.

During the intermission, a Lenten meal was served to over 500 guests, who greatly enjoyed this time of fellowship.

Andranik Andy Torosyan, Chairman of LARK Musical Society, stated, "Let us praise God for bringing together the AMAA and the LARK Musical Society to break bread during this Lenten season and share in the message of Jesus through the work of Bach's St. Matthew Passion. Projects like these will help strengthen our community, encouraging us to aspire to a higher understanding of life and walk the path intended for us."

Reflecting on the past 20 years of AMAA/LARK collaboration, Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, said: "The AMAA rejoices in its annual partnership with the LARK Musical Society in the over two decades long presentation of spring sacred music concerts, elevating human souls from its earthly fetters to a heavenly emancipation, paid for by the blood



Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of AMAA Board of Directors (center), pictured with Arpy and Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian.

shed by our Savior Jesus Christ. We are thankful for the gracious support of the community that makes every one of these events ever excitingly memorable and touching." □

Meridian School Dedicates Bezjian Family Building At Its 34th Annual Gala Banquet

On Sunday, May 15, the C & E Meridian Armenian Evangelical School, Sherman Oaks, CA, held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly constructed Bezjian Family Building. Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, Moderator of the AEUNA, offered his blessings for the new building.

This state-of-the-art facility was made possible by a generous one million dollar donation by benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Terry Bezjian. Mr. Bezjian is the founder of Indo-European Imports, a wholesale distributor of imported Middle Eastern specialty foods. This modern building houses a library, science lab, art room, five spacious classrooms, and the athletic coach's office. It provides the School with greater flexibility in serving its growing student population.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests attended a Gala Banquet co-chaired by Helga Sarkis and Seta Nalbandian. The event was held in a beautifully decorated tent in the School's courtyard. Master of Ceremonies Mariam Kuregyan-Krtotyan began the program by expressing her heartfelt appreciation for the excellent quality of education and family atmosphere enjoyed by her own children at Meridian School.

Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Minister to the AEUNA, offered the Invocation. Musical performances were offered by two young artists: Mary Balian Saghbazarian, an accomplished singer and composer of Christian songs as well as a Meridian alumna and parent, and Marta Hovhannisyan, a promising young music student with a beautiful voice.

Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of the AMAA Board, delivered greetings from the AMAA, after which the guests enjoyed a delicious dinner. Principal Lina Arslanian's message highlighted the admirable qualities of the School and the accomplishments of its students. This was followed by recitations of Bible verses and Armenian poems by several students.

Juliette Abdulian introduced the guests of honor, Albert and Terry Bezjian. Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presented the guests of honor with commemorative gifts. Adrin Nazarian, a Meridian School parent and State Assemblyman for the 46th District, presented a certificate of recognition to Meridian School on behalf of the State of California.

Dr. Nalbandian read a congratulatory letter from Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA. Mr. Khanjian is a former member of the School's Board of Directors, serving the School for many years in various capacities including Board member, Treasurer and Chairman of the Board.



L to R: Albert and Terry Bezjian, Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chair of the School Board, and Juliette Absulian, Vice Chair of the School Board.



Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of the AMAA Board, greets the guests.

The wonderful and very special evening was concluded with a Benediction offered by Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian.

Opportunities for naming classrooms in honor of loved ones are still available. For information, please call Dr. Ivan Shnorhokian at 412-759-2020, or Dr. Vahe Nalbandian at 818-507-9848. □

Updates from Avedisian School Debate Club

Avedisian School Debate Team Participates in Debate at the American Center in Yerevan

On March 23, the Debate Club from the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School participated in a debate at the American Center in Yerevan, Armenia. The Avedisian School Debate Club competed against 198 high school debate clubs. The theme was "Armenia and Turkey Have a Common Future."

The debate judges were Richard M. Mills, Jr., US Ambassador to Armenia, and Andre Simonyan, band singer of The Beautified Project Band.

During the competition, a direct connection was established among members of the debate clubs from Charentsavan, Kapan, Meghri, Vanadzor and Gyumri schools. After the debate, the students engaged in a question and answer session with the Singer and the Ambassador.

Ambassador Mills stated that he was pleasantly surprised by the persuasive speech and debating skills of the Avedisian School students. He congratulated the students, and the Captain of the Debate Club Arevig Khachadourian for their achievements. □



Members of the Debate Club pictured with Ambassador Richard M. Mills, Jr.

Avedisian School Debate Club Students Place First in Armenia

Over the course of two days, May 7-8, the National Debating Tournament semi-finals were held. Such a tournament brought together a total of 26 teams representing the different regions of Armenia. Ultimately, Teams "Etchmiadzin" and "Yerevan 1" (which had two Avedisian School students) progressed to the finals. Yerevan 1 was led by Team Manager Arevik Khachtryan (who is also the Team Manager of the Avedisian School Debate Club) and featured 9th grade Avedisian School student Lusine Yeghiazaryan.

On May 9th, the final debate between Etchmiadzin and Yerevan 1 took place. The topic for the debate "Current terrorist attacks are the result of the Great Powers' policies," elicited great discussion from both sides and contributed to an enthralling debate. It is with great pleasure we announce that Yerevan 1 took first position in the Tournament. We are also pleased to write that 9th grader Lusine Yeghiazaryan of the Avedisian School was awarded with a gold medal and a certificate as the representative of the winning team. □



World Water Day Celebrated at "Green School"

March 22 marked World Water Day, an international observance where people in different parts of the world demonstrated their concern about environmental problems of our planet through organized events. These people want to be part of a change in global policies to help make a difference.

This year's theme, "Better Water, Better Jobs," focused on the vital importance of the 1.5 billion people who work in water related sectors and the connection they have which ensures its safe delivery.

On World Water Day the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School's «Οίκος» Club (which focuses on the importance of environmental education) and the eighth graders gave an interesting presentation to illustrate that drinking water supplies are not inexhaustible, and that we must use them with care and we must not pollute.

Members of the Club presented a short video about the vital importance of water, how human activities affect the destruction and reduction of water reserves, as well as practical tips for saving water. The eighth graders, with wit and humor, discussed the above issues through the play "Assembly of Mice."

The Avedisian School students challenge everyone to save water which will help Mother Nature and will also help us. □



Pre-Marriage Counseling Seminar Held at Camp Hankavan



From March 16-18, pastors of the Evangelical Churches of Armenia along with their wives who were interested in the Pre-Marriage Counseling theme, had an opportunity to listen to an experienced pastor and counselor Rev. Rick Benson.

With more than 30 years of experience, during which time he united hundreds of couples in marriage, Rev. Benson taught the pastors and their wives how to counsel couples in their local churches before their marriage, teaching them rules, principles and approaches, and identifying the main secret for the couple to get closer to Jesus as spouses.

Rev. Benson also gave a special lecture about "Parenting."

Rev. Melkonian Holds Seminars in Armenia for Pastors and Church Councils

Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Senior Pastor and Pastor to Pastors of the Evangelical Churches of Armenia, held special seminars/workshops in Yerevan, Vanadzor and Goris on February 6, March 19 and April 2 for pastors and Church Councils. The theme was "The Role and Responsibility of Church Council Members."

Rev. Melkonian spoke to more than 140 participants about the importance and significance of their service in the life of the church, the personal character and the godly image of the Pastor, the cooperation of the Pastor and the community in the ecclesial significance of their services, as well as about their responsibilities in Christian Service.



Seminar at the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Goris.



Seminar at the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Vanadzor.

AMAA Participates in Unprecedented Cooperation To Support Armenia's Martuni Village

On the occasion of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide in 2015, AMA-Armenia took the initiative to coordinate the formation of a Consortium of six NGOs (AMA-Armenia, Development Principles, "Shen" Charity NGO, World Vision Armenia, COAF, and Fund for Armenia Relief) to join efforts in support of Martuni Village, in the Republic of Armenia.

The Village, located in the north eastern part of the Gegharkunik Region, on the southern shores of Lake Sevan, was founded in 1921 and its first inhabitants were Genocide survivors, mostly from Van, Alashkert, Kars and Sasun, who had emigrated. The Village is 132 kilometers from Yerevan.

On March 4, 2016, these organizations and two new partners, Teach for Armenia and the Armenia Round Table of the World Council of Churches (WCC), visited Martuni to evaluate and review the work of the past year which included:

- COAF financed the renovation of the medical center of the Martuni community.
- World Vision presented its newly formed Engineering Club and its newly acquired Robotics lab of the school.
- "Shen" Charity NGO presented the new Village website (www.martunigyugh.am) which shows the history of the Village, current conditions and a project which was also financed by Shen; the installation of water pipes providing drinking water for most of the villagers.
- AMA-Armenia helped the villagers acquire 2 brand new tractors and 10 gasoline powered harvesters. These items will help villagers harvest hay to feed their cattle during the winter months and also cultivate their lands.
- FAR (Fund for Armenia Relief) presented scholarships to Martuni Village high school students.

Pastors from Armenia Visit Lebanon

On February 20, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Pastor to Pastors of the Evangelical Churches of Armenia, along with Rev. Gevorg Gasparyan, President of the Union of the Evangelical Church in Armenia, Pastor Senik Saribekyan, Assistant Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Ijevan, Pastor Gagik Danielyan, Pastor of the Evangelical Churches of Armenia in Zeytoun and Malatia-Sebastia region, and Rev. Suren Markaryan, Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Spitak, arrived in Beirut and were hosted by the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) until March 12.

The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with and to better know the Armenian Community in Lebanon, the local Armenian Evangelical Churches and their ministries, the daily life and the activities of the pastors, to get acquainted with the schools serving next to the churches, as well as other social service institutions of UAECNE and their activities, and to help the visiting pastors widen their vision of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Armenia.

The visiting pastors also had an opportunity to visit Haigazian University and meet with the President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, and the Near East School of Theology and meet with its President, Rev. Dr. George Sabra.



They also visited the four Armenian Evangelical Churches in the city – Nor Marash, Nor Amanos, Eshrefieh and the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut – as well as the Armenian Evangelical Church of Anjar, and participated in their worship services.

The visiting pastors also met with the local pastors, had time to pray together and have discussions. Rev. Melkonian and Rev. Gasparyan also participated as guests in the Central Committee meeting of the UAECNE.

In Nor Amanos, Nor Marash and Anjar churches the pastors had three

day-long meetings with the pastors and observed their daily work and ministry. On February 29 they also participated in the Women's World Day of Prayer Program which this year was dedicated to the women of Cuba.

The visiting pastors also participated in a couples seminar held in KCHAG, the speaker of which was Rev. Melkonian. They also participated in the morning worship services of the schools and brought their messages.

While in Lebanon, the visiting pastors also had the opportunity to do some sightseeing in the country. □

- Development Principles granted 13 pregnant cows to low income families within the community.
- AMA-Armenia partnered with Teach for Armenia to send a well-trained teacher to teach IT courses and help students develop leadership skills.

The Partners also visited the computer lab which was provided by the WCC Armenia Round Table.

Representatives of each organization met with community members and discussed various projects. The community members were very appreciative for all the help provided to them and expressed their suggestions and thoughts. All the villagers were excited and encouraged about the work that is being rendered by this consortium.

The mission of this partnership is to help increase the standard of living in Martuni and to eventually help other villages. This cooperation from different Armenian organizations is an example of how synergy multiplies the efforts of each individual organization.



UACC Celebrates AMAA Sunday



On March 13, congregants of the United Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles, CA welcomed Peter Kougasian, Esq., AMAA Vice President, to the pulpit to present an update on the work of the AMAA.

Peter shared the story of a Danish missionary, Karen Jeppe, who worked tirelessly to save Armenian people before the Genocide. In the years after the war, she moved to Aleppo to devote her life to the

resettlement, particularly focusing on the plight of young women. In speaking to the League of Nations to seek financial aid, Karen defrayed the concerns that monies given would not do much, with her comment, "It is only a little light, but the night is so dark."

Today, once again, the night is dark and we are challenged to bring a little light by aiding AMAA's Operation Lifeline, which is providing housing subsidies and medical care for the many Armenians who have chosen to leave Syria. AMAA is also providing humanitarian care for those who remain in Syria.

After the service, members of the UACC family shared a continental brunch which included menseish, tahini bread, bagels & lox, ham, colored Easter eggs, and much more. As they feasted on their food some were able to glean more about AMAA's work as they visited with Peter. AMAA brochures as well as envelopes were placed in Easter baskets in the center of the tables to facilitate donating.

Many thanks go to all the members of the Missions Committee as well as additional volunteers who hosted the brunch. In a small measure, it is through their endeavors that God has blessed the missions program at UACC. We are grateful for all those gifted with a servant's heart. May we all search our hearts and seek Our Lord's guidance of ways we might be "lights in a dark night." □

AMAA Finance Director Speaks at AMAA Worship Service in Glendale, CA



David Aynejian, AMAA's Director of Finance (third from left), with Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church (second from left), and some members of the Church Board.

On March 13, David Aynejian, AMAA's Director of Finance, visited Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church in Glendale, CA. During the Worship Service, Mr. Aynejian read a passage from the Gospel of Mark Chapter 6, where the disciples reported on what they did and what they taught. Though Jesus wanted to retreat with His disciples, a large crowd gathered around them and Jesus, out of compassion, started teaching them. Since it was late and they were in a remote place, Jesus blessed the five breads and two fishes and fed thousands.

After he finished reading the passage, Mr. Aynejian said, "This is what we do at the AMAA. Our mission is to teach the Word of God and to care for the physical needs of the people."

Following his remarks he showed a film that summarized activities of the AMAA in different areas and countries. A reception was held for Church members to meet Mr. Aynejian and to ask questions.

Mr. Aynejian then visited the Children's Ministry of the Church. On that Sunday, the children were excited about working on an interesting craft called "Easter Garden" – decorating a plate and planting a seed that would grow to become the Resurrection scene of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church in Glendale is a small but active church and has an active Children's Ministry. Through the Haigazounyats Armenian Language Program, Armenian children in the neighborhood are taught the Armenian language and culture and have an opportunity to hear the Word of God. The Women's Committee of the Church is very active and is also the mission arm of the Church. Through its "Loving Hands" mission, support is provided to some elderly and physically handicapped, and needy persons/families in Armenia.

We thank the AMAA for supporting our church especially the Haigazounyats Program through the AEUNA/AMAA Joint Home Mission. We thank God for the AMAA and its ministry and the AMAA leadership and staff for their dedicated service. □



Haigazounyats children of the Church singing at Worship Service.

President of AMAA Board Speaks at Cilicia Church for AMAA Sunday



Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA Board President (third from left), pictured with Rev. George Terian, Pastor of Cilicia Church (first from left), Anahis Derian Boulghoorjian, major AMAA benefactor (fourth from left), with some members of the Church.



luncheon, Dr. Darakjian showed a power point presentation depicting projects that the AMAA sponsors around the world. The Church offering and the proceeds from the luncheon were donated to the AMAA.

Cilicia Church supports various projects of the AMAA. An example is the "Stitched with Love" project, initiated by Mrs. Arous Albarian with the participation of the Ladies Auxiliary and Dorcas Guild members.

There are several avid supporters of the AMAA at Cilicia Church including Mrs. Sirvart Hintlian and Mrs. Anahis Derian Boulghoorjian who helped support the construction of the new Church building in Dilijan, Armenia. □



AMA-Armenia Representative Speaks at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood



Harout Nercessian, AMA-Armenia Representative (second from left), and Rev. Apraham Chaparian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA (third from left), with some members of the Church.

Harout Nercessian, AMA-Armenia Representative, recently presented at the Armenian Evangelical Church in Hollywood, CA for its AMAA Sunday. He preached on the topic of "The Ultimate Investment Meaning – Value and Impact of Your Life." Luke 5:1-11.

Mr. Nercessian showed a video and a power point presentation about the work of the AMAA in 24 countries around the world. He also thanked the congregation for its generous donation of \$32,000 several years ago for the House of Hope Church in Yerevan and gave a report on the purchase of the House. □

AMAA Mission Sunday at Downey Church



L to R: Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Pastor of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, and Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO.

On Sunday March 6, the morning service at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey, CA was dedicated to celebrate the mission of AMAA, where AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian was present.

In his greetings and address to the congregation, Mr. Khanjian underlined the Biblical teaching of James 1:27 in showing solidarity and support toward brothers in need. He also stressed that charity and kind works show our genuine love to God. Concluding his message, Mr. Khanjian shared a brief report on the AMAA projects and invited the congregation to be part of the AMAA mission through their prayers and financial support. □

West Coast Director Speaks at AMAA Sunday in North Hollywood



L to R: Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, and Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of North Hollywood.

Holy Trinity Armenian Church in North Hollywood, CA warmly received AMAA's West Coast Director Levon Filian when he was the guest speaker for the Armenian Service at AMAA Sunday on March 13. He brought greetings from the entire AMAA staff and Board of Directors, and encouraged the Church to continue its zeal in serving the Lord in the North Hollywood area, and to the world alongside the AMAA.

Mr. Filian prepared a power point presentation which he shared prior to delivering the message. The attendees became more familiar with the work of AMAA both in Armenia and the Diaspora. He also acknowledged and thanked HTAC for supporting the refugees stemming from the crisis in Syria.

His message for the day was taken from John 15:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 2:6-8, titled "Growing in God's Word." The message was about how trees provide fruits and/or shade. The heart of the message constituted the idea of trees serving their purpose, and so should we — as believers in Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to do what God has called us to do, and be a blessing to all around. □

Representatives of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Visit AMAA West Coast Office

On Tuesday, May 11, 2016 four representatives from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) visited the West Coast Office of the AMAA, located in Glendale, CA, to show the support of their organization, pray for the Armenian people and discuss sending Christmas shoe boxes to Armenia.

L to R: Dr. Tom Phillips, Vice President of Billy Graham Library; Roy Graham, grandson of Rev. Billy Graham and son of Franklin Graham; Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director; and Sylvia Cheatham and Dr. Melvin Cheatham, BGEA Board member.



AMAA Congratulates Board Member and Benefactor Edward Avedisian, 2016 Recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honor

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor has been awarded each year since 1986. It recognizes individuals who have made it their mission to share with those less fortunate their wealth of knowledge, indomitable courage, boundless compassion, unique talents and selfless generosity; all the while maintaining the traditions of their ethnic heritage as they embody the American Dream.

This year, Edward Avedisian was not only one of the distinguished recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, but was one of a very select few invited to give his personal remarks at the ceremony. The ceremony was held on Ellis Island on Saturday, May 7.

The professional career of Mr. Avedisian spans four disciplines: a performing symphonic musician, teaching at the university level, arts administration, as well as investing and philanthropy. He retired after 30 years of service as clarinetist with the Boston Pops and 43 seasons with the Boston Ballet Orchestra. Outside of the United States, he has appeared as soloist with the Armenian State Philharmonic, the Armenian Radio and TV Orchestra and the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, and was visiting artist to Boston's sister city of Hangzhou, China, in 1998.

His success as a private investor led him to establish endowments and award grants to a number of nonprofit organizations. At the American University of Armenia (AUA) he fully funded the Center for Health Studies & Research and the Center for Business Research & Development. He was principal benefactor and chair of the construction committee (2005-2009) of the new 100,000 sq. ft. Paramaz Avedisian Building and was appointed to the Presidential Search Committee for AUA by Dr. C. Judson King, former Provost of the University of California and Chair of the AUA Board of Trustees.

Others of note include the founder and principal benefactor of both the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian K-12 School and Community Center in Malatia-Sepastia, Armenia (a seven-building complex), and sole benefactor and chair of the AUA Oversight Committee for the Nork Marash Medical Center (bringing the Hospital up to U.S. standards in 2004-2005). Mr. Avedisian also serves as Trustee for the American University of Armenia, and as Board member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. As a founder and sole supporter of the Friends of the American University of Armenia, his contributions include a complete renovation of the High School in Haghtanag Village (2008-2009) and the installation of a cluster of lights and trees at the Didzernaghapt Armenian Genocide Memorial. He has twice been awarded the Movses Khorentasi Medal by Armenia's President Sargsyan for Contributions to Education, Culture, Literature and the Arts in 2008 and 2014. In the United States, key endeavors are: established the Paramaz Avedisian Pharmacy Scholarship at the University of Rhode Island, Boston University Medical School (Chobanian Professorship) and BU Tanglewood Scholarship, and an endowed chair for the Boston Ballet Orchestra.

Mr. Avedisian was born in Pawtucket, RI, where he attended public school and served as president of his graduating class. He furthered his education on a scholarship to Boston University where he earned his BM and MM degrees. Edward is married to Pamela Wood and they currently reside in Lexington, MA.



Hackensack Rotary Club Awards Grant For Child Care Programs in Armenia

Rotary Club of Hackensack, NJ awarded the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) a \$2,000 grant for AMAA's child care projects in Armenia at a luncheon held on March 24. Just like previous awards from Rotary Club, this grant will help many children under the care of AMAA's Child Sponsorship Program with various needs of urgent medical care, and also help children attend Summer Camps.

David Aynejian, AMAA's Director of Finance, attended the luncheon and accepted the check on behalf of the Association. Mr. Aynejian thanked the Hackensack Rotary Club for its continued support of AMAA's child care programs in Armenia.

The AMAA also thanks Rotary Club member Serge Krikorian for helping to raise these funds for our needy children in Armenia. □



L to R: Steve Koestner, President of the Hackensack Rotary Club, David Aynejian and Serge Krikorian.

AMAA Meets with U.S. Ambassador to Armenia in CA

On March 8, representatives from the Armenian Missionary Association of America attended a meeting with current U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard M. Mills, Jr.

Accompanied by Jeffrey Paretchan, USAID Regional Alliance Contact for Europe & Eurasia, the meeting, held at the Brand Library and Arts Center in Glendale, CA, was one in a series of Ambassador Mills' meetings with various representatives of the Armenian-American community around the country.

AMAA representatives in attendance were Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA Board President, Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, former AMAA Board President, Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, and Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director.

The Ambassador shared plans and priorities for the advancement of the country. He was also interested to learn more about AMAA's global ministry, especially in Armenia. Among topics discussed were current events in Armenia, security matters, the influx of Armenians from war torn Syria, freedom of speech and religion, plans for a stronger economy, and ways to expand help to residents of bordering villages of Armenia.

The AMAA welcomes the new U.S. Ambassador Mr. Mills to Armenia, wishes him great success, and thanks him for his keen



L to R: Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, former AMAA Board President, Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, Ambassador Richard M. Mills, Jr., Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, and Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA Board President.

interest in helping our Homeland with the participation of the Armenian leadership in the Diaspora. □

AMAA Meets with RA Minister of Diaspora

On the morning of Wednesday April 20, Peter Kougasian, Esq., Vice President of the AMAA Board, along with AMAA Board member Berjouhy Gulesserian and her husband Maurice, met with the Minister of the Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan at the offices of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations. The meeting lasted approximately one hour.

The meeting was convened under somber circumstances: just the previous evening, Azerbaijan had commenced attacks along the Nagorno-Karabagh border. The Minister said that while conflict is nearly constant in the Ngorno-Karabagh region, what made the preceding night's actions of great concern was that Azerbaijan had used tanks and had targeted civilians in border villages. The Minister appealed to Armenian-Americans to urge the American administration to support Armenia.

The topic then turned to the support of Syrian-Armenians. The Minister expressed gratitude to the AMAA for its support for resettlement efforts "from the first day." She said there were currently some 20,000 Syrian-Armenians in the Republic of Armenia, of which 620 families needed significant financial support. She listed the immediate charitable needs as follows:

- 1) Medical needs: approximately 60 people need heart surgery, and the Republic has run out of funds to pay hospital costs. The fee is approximately \$5,000 per surgery.
- 2) Rental assistance: last year the government received \$800,000 for rental assistance from the United Nations. This year the figure dropped to \$300,000. Half a million dollars is needed to restore the difference.
- 3) Business grants: the minister said Syrian-Armenians have been successful in starting businesses when they have the capital. However, many are afraid to borrow money from the bank. The Minister said a small grant of \$10,000 to \$15,000 could be sufficient for a person to start a new business in Armenia. She described a program in which successful Syrian-Armenian business people mentor newly-arrived Syrian-Armenians to start new businesses.

The Minister ended the meeting by saying she needed to complete a news release to the Diaspora regarding the conflict in Ngorno-Karabagh. The AMAA delegation thanked her for so generously sharing her reflections at such a demanding time.

Belmont Church Sunday School Class Raises Funds to Sponsor Children in Armenia

In September 2015, the dedicated Sunday School Teachers at the First Armenian Church of Belmont, MA announced a new calendar of activities to the Sunday School Classes. The theme of "Planting the Seeds" was selected and each class was given the task of owning one month for community service in an effort to plant those seeds.

The Middle School Class decided to own two months of community service starting with October 2015. Together the Class members developed a plan for a fund raiser and decided that all proceeds would go to the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Fund – specifically to sponsor two children in Armenia. During the Fall Church Bazaar, they organized a table in the Narthex and sold books, Christmas cards, book marks, magnets, prayer cards, coloring books and numerous other items. They each took one or two hour shifts at the table and often stayed longer just for fellowship with each other. For the entire day, they raised enough money to sponsor two children - \$681.25. The Middle School Class has now made it their mission to continue sponsoring two children every year.

These young people are well grounded in their faith and are keenly aware of the importance that serving others should always be a priority. What was even more inspiring was that their planning, executing, and strong willed determination ensured that their goal was met. □



Back row L to R: Luke Fournier, Caroline Solakian, Alice Guyumdzhyan, John O'Connell. **Front row L to R:** Isabella Balian, Alex Boyajian, Casidy Quinn. Missing from picture is Eric Hovsepien.

SAVE THE DATE

The Boston area Orphan and Child Care Committee will present its 25th Annual Fundraiser on Thursday, September 29, 2016. The Dinner and Auction will take place at Wellesley Country Club, 294 Wellesley Ave. Wellesley Hills, MA.



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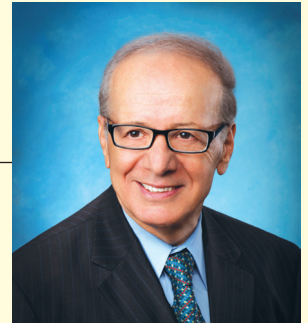
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ՀԱՅ ԱՒԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՂԵՑԻ 170 ԱՄԵԱԿԻՆ ԱՌԻԹՈՎ

Արարատի Կատարէն Տօնէնք 170-Ամեակը

Վեր. Պերճ Ճամպազեան

Յիսաբանէ պատմական թիւերու եւ թուականներու բաղդատութիւն: Զրիեղեղի պատմութեան մէջ յատկանշական էին թիւ 7-ը եւ թիւ 40-ը Նոյին համար:



1. ԵՕԹԸ - Ծննդոց 7. 2, 3 - Մաքուր անասուններէն քեզի **եօթնական** հատ առ...

Ծննդոց 7. 3 - Թռչուններէն **եօթնական** հատ առ...

Ծննդոց 8. 4 - **եօթներորդ** ամսուն, տապանը Արարատ լեռներուն վրայ Նստաւ...

- Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին ծնաւ 1846-ին՝ եօթներորդ ամիսը, Բերայի միսիոնարական մատուռին մէջ, Կոստանդնուպոլիս: Ներկայ էին **եօթը** միսիոնարներ՝ որպէս ներկայացուցիչները Բողոքական Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներուն: Հրապարակաւ ճանչցան զանոնք իբրեւ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի ճշմարիտ մէկ Եկեղեցին:

2. ՔԱՌԱՍՈՒՆ - Ծննդոց 7. 4 - Եօթը օրէն ետքը **քառասուն** օր ու **քառասուն** գիշեր անձրեւ պիտի բերեմ...

Ծննդոց 8. 6 - **Քառասուն** օր ետք Նոյ տապանին պատուհանը Բացաւ...

- 1846-ին Բերայի մատուռին մէջ ներկայ էին **40** Հայ Աւետարանական անդամներ՝ 37 այր եւ 3 կին: Աղօթքէ ետք կանոնագրութիւնը որդեգրուեցաւ, ոտքի վրայ հաւանութիւն տրուեցաւ հաւատքի եւ ուխտի, եւ ծնունդը յայտարարուեցաւ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին:

- 40 Աւետարանականներու առջեւ բացուեցաւ պատուհանը տապանին, Աւետարանը Սուրբ Հոգւոյն զօրութեամբ հռչակուեցաւ ամենուրեք, ու հիմնուեցան տասնեակ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներ:

3. Աստուծոյ Շնորհաց Աղեղը Ամպին մէջ

Ծննդոց 9. 13 - Իմ աղեղս ամպին մէջ պիտի դնեմ: Այն պիտի ըլլայ իմ յաւիտենական ուխտի նշանը:

- Մռայլ ամպերը ծածկեցին Հայ Աւետարանական լուսաշող եւ Յիսուսատրոփ Եկեղեցիները, հնոցին մէջ հուրը Աստուծոյ սիրոյն մնաց անմար, Արիւնահեղութեան մէջ ողորմութիւնն Աստուծոյ եղաւ միսիթարութիւն:

- Մթութեան մէջ երեւցաւ Աստուծոյ աղեղը: Եօթը յուսադրիչ գոյներով՝ յիշեցնելով Աստուծոյ Շնորհաց եւ Սիրոյն Յաւիտենական Ուխտը, որ մինչեւ այսօր գոյ է Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներուն մէջ:

Հետեւաբար «Օն Յառաջ եղբայրներ, Օն յառաջ եւ քոյրեր, Վեր բռնենք Ջահը Աւետարանին: Լոյս սփռենք համայն խաւար աշխարհի»: (Յակոբ Ճամպազեանի երգերէն մին):

Կոչ Ցնծերգութեան

Կոչը ուղղուած է բոլոր Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներուն անխտիր:

Եկե՛ք աննախընթաց ներդաշնակութեամբ, անքակտելի միասնականութեամբ եւ անսակարկ նուիրականութեամբ միաձայն՝ ի խորոց սրտի մեր գոհունակութեան, փառաբանութեան ու օրհներգութեան ձայները բարձրացնենք առ Աստուած, Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին ու անոր հաւատարիմ բարեկարգիչներուն, հիմնադիրներուն ու մարտիրոսներուն, Զրիստոսակորիզ ծառայութեան, զոհաբերութեան ու «մինչեւ ի մահ» հաւատարմութեան համար:

Փառք տանք Հաւատքի հերոսներուն համար, որոնք քաջաբար ու արիաբար Աստուծոյ սպառազինութիւնը հագած կուրծք պարզեցին հալածիչներու կրակոտ նետներուն դէմ:

Անոնք չթուցան ու չվրիպեցան իրենց սրբազան կոչումէն, ու նպատակաւորօրէն պատասխանատուութենէն, առաջնորդութենէն եւ առաքելութենէն:

Փառք տանք Աւետարանական ջատագովներուն համար, որոնք չլքեցին իրենց պատնէշները, չուրացան իրենց Փրկիչը՝ Յիսուս, ու չշեղեցան իրենց ողջախոհ դաւանանքէն, որոնց համար ապրիլը Զրիստոս էր ու մահը կեանք:

Փառք տանք աւետարանական ջահակիրներուն համար, որոնք յուսահատական պայմաններու մէջ՝ դիւային մրրիկներն իսկ չկրցան մարել ջահերը Զրիստոսեան:

Լքուածութեան մէջ Աստուծոյ պաշտպանութեան խոստումներով ապրեցան: Անարդար քննադատութիւններու առջեւ Յիսուսի արդարութեան զրահը հագան:

Հերձուածողական անուանումը Յիսուսի ճշմարտութեան մարմնացումովը դիմագրաւեցին:

Յիսուսի մահը իրենց մարմիններուն մէջ կրեցին, որպէսզի կեանքը Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներուն մէջ ներգործեր:

Եկե՛ք. 170 փառաբանական երգերով եւ աղօթքներով տօնենք 170-ամեակը Աստուծոյ սիրոյն եւ հրաշագործութիւններուն, որոնք շողարձակուեցան Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու գոյութիւնովը:

Նախապայմանը 170-ամեակի Տօնակատարութեան

Անհնարին է, որպէս Աւետարանականներ արդարացնել 170-ամեակի տօնակատարութիւնը, երբ հոգեւորապէս ձորերու եւ հովիտներու մէջ կ'ապրինք:

Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի ծնունդը ապացոյց էր մեր բարեկարգիչներու հոգեւոր բարձունքին: Հոգեւորապէս Արարատեան կատարները հասած էին, ուր կը վայելէին Աստուծոյ ներկայութիւնը, սրբութիւնը ու ստեղծագործութեան կատարելութիւնն ու գեղեցկութիւնը: Հոն դրոշմուեցան Աստուծոյ նկարագրին յատկանիշներով, ու ստացան իրենց կոչման տեսիլքը անսահման հորիզոնով, ու Աստուծոյ յաւիտենական ուխտին շնորհաց ու սիրոյ աղեղով:

Այո՛, միայն հոգեւոր վերագարթնումի կատարներէն կրնանք խորքը թափանցել, ըմբռնել եւ ըմբռնիսնել մեր հաւատքի ռահվիրաներուն կոչումը, դաւանանքը, ողջախոհ վարդապետութիւնը, հաւատարմութիւնը ու մարտիրոսութիւնը:

Հոգեւորապէս Արարատ լեռներու կատարները կը հասնինք Յիսուսի հետ ուղղահայեաց հաղորդակցութիւն ունենալով, ճշմարիտ հաւատքով, աղօթքով, Սուրբ Հոգւոյն լեցունութիւնով ու իր կենաց Խօսքի սնունդով:

Այն ատեն ականջալուր կրնանք ըլլալ մեր հաւատքի վկաներու Յիսուսատրոփ սրտերուն եւ հասկնալ եւ գնահատել պատգամը իրենց հռչակած Աւետարանին:

Անխախտ Համոզումներու Բարեկարգիչներ

Անոնք՝ Յոքի նման, կեանքի երեք կորուստները՝

- Ստացուածքի յափշտակութիւնը
- արիւնտ եաթաղանի մահուան սարսուռը
- Եւ ֆիզիքական ու հոգեկան բացուած վերքերը դիմագրաւեցին երեք անխախտ համոզումներով:

ա. Հաստատ գիտէին թէ որու էին հաւատացեր

«Այս չարչարանքներն ալ կը կրեմ, բայց ամօթ չեմ սեպեր, վասնզի գիտեմ թէ որու եմ հաւատացեր եւ համոզուած եմ թէ իմ իրեն աւանդած կեանքս կրնայ պահել» (Բ. Տիմ. 1. 12):

Չարչարանքները կրեցին Զրիստոսի մէջ արմատացած հաւատքով, մահուան իրականութիւնը դիմագրաւեցին Յիսուսի խօսքերուն վրայ վստահելով, որ ըսաւ «Ես եմ Յարութիւնը եւ Կեանքը»:
Այս առաջին հիմնաքարն է 170-ամեակի տօնակատարութեան:

բ. Հաստատ գիտէին, որ իրենց Փրկիչը ողջ էր

1909-ին, Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիները պատուիրակութեամբ մը կ'ուղղուէին դէպի Ատանա տարեկան Համագումարին ներկայ ըլլալու: Ճանապարհի ընթացքին որոշեցին գիշերել Օսմանիէ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին մէջ:

Գիշերով արիւնարբու Թուրք զինուորներ շրջապատեցին եկեղեցին ու ազդարարեցին հովիւներուն ու ստիպեցին որոշում առնել հաւատուրացութեամբ ապրելու՝ կամ քրիստոնէական հաւատքով Հռկիզուելու:

Անոնք համոզուած էին, Սեդրակ Միսաք եւ Աբեղնագովի նման, որ կրակի մէջ իսկ իրենց Փրկիչը ողջ է:

Ընտրեցին իրկիզումը Զրիստոսի կենդանութեան հաւատքով. Այս երկրորդ հիմնաքարն էր, որ իրենց ներուժն էր մինչեւ ի մահ հաւատարմութեան՝ որպէս մարտիրոսներ Հայ Աւետանական Եկեղեցիին:

գ. Հաստատ գիտէին, որ որոշմուած էին յաւիտենական կեանքի վստահութեամբ

Յոքի նման յատարարեցին «Թեւ այս մորթս փճանայ, իմ մարմինովս զԱստուած պիտի տեսնեմ.» (Յոք. 19. 26):

Երջանիկ Յոյսը հաստատումն էր իրենց անխախտ հաւատքին:

«Իմ աչքերս պիտի տեսնեն զԱնիկա, եւ ոչ թէ ուրիշը» (Յոք. 19. 27):

Իրենց համար ապրիլը Յիսուս էր, եւ մահը կեանք՝ յաւիտենական կեանք: Այս երրորդ գաղտնիքն էր, որ անցողականի մէջ, Աստուծոյ յաւիտենական թագաւորութեան ծառայեցին, Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի հիմնարկութեամբ:

Շողարձակները Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներուն, 170 տարիներու ընթացքին, եւ եղեռնի դժոխային օրերու մէջ իսկ յուսադրուեցան Աստուծոյ յաւիտենական Ուխտի աղեղով, որ կը յիշեցներ Աստուծոյ Սէրը, Ողորմութիւնը, Ներկայութիւնը եւ Խոստումը:

Եօթը յուսադրիչ եւ զմայլելի ու փառաւոր գոյներով:

Եկեք, Աստուծոյ ծիածանին տակ համախմբուինք ու միասիրտ յառաջադիմենք առաքելի կոչին հնազանդելով:

«Ուստի մենք ալ, որ այսչափ վկաներու բազմութեամբ շրջապատուած ենք, ամէն ծանրութիւն մեր վրայէն մէկդի ձգենք եւ մեզ դիւրաւ պաշարող մեղքը, համբերութիւնով վազենք մեր առջեւ դրուած ասպարեզին ընթացքը: Յիսուսի նայինք, մեր հաւատքի առաջնորդին ու կատարողին:»
Եբր. 12. 1-2: □

Կենսամտորոգ Յանձնառութիւն

Ինչպէս եօթը տարիներ առաջ, 1918-ին, հոյլ մը հայորդիներ, գիտակից հայ ժողովուրդի յետ Եղեռնեան անմոռմոք ցաւին եւ կսկիծին եւ անսալով Աւետարանի սրբազան պատգամին, ծնունդ տուին Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան:

Քսանեւհինգ տարիներ առաջ, 1991-ին անսալով ցեղի ձայնին եւ հայրենի հողի կանչին, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը Եսայի Մարգարէի նման «Ահաւասիկ ես, զիս դրկէ» պատասխանեց Աստուծոյ «Ո՛վ դրկեմ եւ մեզի համար ո՛վ պիտի երթայ» ձայնին եւ ոտք դրաւ ինքնավար եւ ինքնիշխան, նորանկախ Հայաստանի բազում հազարամեայ հողին վրայ:

Տասընհինգ տարիներ առաջ, 2000 թուականին, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Վարիչ Տնօրէն, Վեր. Դոկտ. Մովսէս Ճանպազեան տեսիլքը ունեցաւ ձեր հետ միասին այս գաղութին մէջ հիմնելու Աւստրալիոյ Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը երկարելով Աւետարանչականի բարութեան աղբիւրը մինչեւ Աւստրալիական ցամաքամասը եւ իրականացնելով այս գաղութի ծոցին մէջ հասունցած իդօը եւ յորդող յանձնառութիւնը անմասն չմնալու «գացէք բոլոր ազգերը աշակերտեցէք» Աստուածային պատգամին:

Մնացեալը պատմութեան կը պատկանի եւ անոր վկայութիւնն է: Հայրենիքի խարսխեալ հզօրութիւնը եւ հայ ժողովուրդի հոգեւոր, իմացական եւ ֆիզիքական բարօրութիւնը նպատակ ունենալով, Աւետարանչականը, իր բոլոր թելերով, լուռ եւ անտրտունջ շարունակեց

իր ծառայութիւնները մատուցանել հայրենիքի եւ Արցախի մինչեւ հեռաւոր սահմանները:

Անխարդախ սիրով եւ համապարփակ ոգիով Աւետարանչականը իր հոգածութեան հովանին տարածեց հայ մանուկէն սկսեալ, պատանիին, երիտասարդին, չափահասին, տարեցին եւ թոշակառուին վրայ: Անոր ուշադրութեան առարկան դարձաւ սահմանամերձ հայ գիւղը եւ գիւղացին, բանակն ու զինծառայողը, վիրաւորն ու հիւանդանոցը, բոլորին առողջութիւնն ու կենսամակարդակը, ուսումն ու զարգացումը:

Աւետարանչականը, դարաւոր Մայր Եկեղեցիի սրբազան առաքելութեան կողքին տարածեց Աստուծոյ խօսքը, բաժնեց Քրիստոսի բարի լուրը եւ հաւատքի ակունքներուն առաջնորդեց հայ անհատը:

Այս օրերուն երկրագունդի Հիւսիսային ցամաքամասերը դուրս կու գան բիրտ, ճնշող եւ ձիւնապատ ձմեռնային եղանակէ մը ընգրկելով Գարունը: Գարունը եղանակներու գեղեցկագոյնն է: Արեւի ջերմութիւնը կոգեւորէ մեզ, կանաչ մարգագետիններն եւ գունագեղ ծաղիկները բարիով կը տրամադրեն մեզ իսկ թոշուններու դիօթիչ երգեցողութիւնը կաւետէ զմայլելի Գարնան գալուստը: Գարունը, վերածնունդի, անդրադարձի եւ մեր օրհնութիւններու գիտակցութեան գնահատանքի եղանակն է: Ժամանակն է տօնախմբելու կեանքը, մեզի ընծայուած խաղաղութեան, ապահովութեան եւ բարգաւաճումին մէջ:

Բայց խոկումի պահ մը անմիջապէս անդրադառնալ կու տայ թէ պարագան նոյնը չէ

միլիոնաւորներու համար որոնք կ'ապրին աշխարհի շուրջը ապահովութեան, խաղաղութեան եւ գեղեցիկի բացակայութեան: Միլիոնաւորներ, որոնք տակաւին զրկուած կը մնան «Գացէ՛ք բոլոր աշխարհ ու աւետարանը քարոզեցէ՛ք բոլոր ստեղծուածներուն» (Մարկ. 16:15) Աւետարանի պատգամէն:

Թոյլ տուէք ինծի այս պահուս հակիրճ կերպով անդրադառնալ այն նուազ բախտաւորներու վրայ տարածուած երգրագունդի 24 երկիրներու մէջ որոնց կը ծառայէ Աւետարանչականը եւ որոնք յաւելեալ օգնութեան աղբիւրներով կրնան դառնալ 30 կամ 40 երկիրներ: Այդ վայրերուն մէջ Աւետարանչականը կը ջանայ փարատել վախի, տգիտութեան եւ խաւարի ազդեցութիւնը անոնց հասցնելով Աստուծոյ խօսքը, ուսման եւ զարգացումի, գաւաթ մը ջուրի եւ նկանակի, դեղի եւ դարմանի մը կողքին:

Միասնաբար կօրհներգենք անոնց Աստուածապարգէս կեանքը, զարնան շունչը կը ներմուծենք որեւէ եղանակի եւ յոյս կը ներշնչենք անոնց:

Հայրենիքի մէջ հաստատուած 22 եկեղեցիներուն եւ զԱստուած պաշտող ժողովուրդին նման:

Կիրակնօրեայ դպրոցներու, Քրիստոնէական Դաստիարակութեան կեդրոններու, մանկապարտէզներու, Պատանեաց-Ջանիցներու՝ Քրիստոսի սէրը բաժնելով անոնց հետ:

Նահատակ զինծառայողներու ընտանիքներու բնակարանային նորոգութեան եւ անոնց դերատի գաւակներու խնամակալութեան հովանաւորութեամբ:

Հարիւրաւոր համալսարանականներու ուսման ծախսերու եւ թոշակի նպաստով՝ Սուրիոյ, Լիբանանի, Հայրենիքի, Միացեալ Նահանգներու մէջ եւ այլուր:

1500-է աւելի, տարուէ տարի հովանաւորուած հայրենաբնակ մանուկներով եւ պատանիներով:

Հայկազեան Համալսարանի մէջ նպաստ ստացող հարիւրաւոր հայ եւ մանաւանդ վերջին մի քանի տարիներուն յատկապէս Սուրիահայ ուսանողներու նման:

Եւրոպայի, Միջին Արեւելքի եւ Հարաւային Ամերիկայի մէջ ծառայող բազմաթիւ հովիւներու տրուած նպաստի նման:

Մօտ 400 շէնշող, կայտառ եւ տնտեսական դժուար պայմաններու մէջ ապրող Աւետիսեան գեղակերտ, նորակերտ, արդի եւ որակաւոր

վարժարանի անվճառ ուսանող աշակերտներու նման:

Ամէնուրեք, ճամբարներու մէջ Աստուածային հրաշալի բնութիւնը վայլող եւ անոր արարումը գնահատող եւ փառք տուող պատանի-երիտասարդներուն նման:

Աստուծոյ դաշտին մէջ ծառայող եւ տասնամեակներու ընթացքին ուսման նպաստ ստացող հարիւրաւոր Աստուածաբանական աշակերտներու նման:

Եւ յատկապէս վերջին մի քանի տարիներու ընթացքին, մահուան, ցաւի եւ տառապանքի ցմրուրը խմող եւ դար մը ետք կրկին գաղթականութեան ցուպը ձեռքին հարազատ օրրանէն հեռացող եւ հեռացուող Սուրիահայուն հանդէպ ցուցաբերուած նիւթական եւ բարոյական անդադրում օգնութեան երկարած ձեռքին նման: Շարքը երկար է տակաւին բայց տեղ մը պէտք է կանգ առնել:

Այս բոլորը, շնորհիւ Աստուծոյ օրհնութեան, բարերարներու առատաձեռն նպաստին, անհամար Բարի Սամարացիներու եւ զոհողութեամբ երկու լուման նուիրող այրիներու:

Այս բոլորը նաեւ հեռաւոր Աւստրալիոյ եւ այլուր գտնուող գործի ընկերներու եւ բարի կամեցողութեամբ օժտուած հայորդիներու:

2015ը մէկ հայելին էր Աւետարանչականի վերոյիշեալ ծառայութիւններուն եւ առաքելութեան: Այսօր, աւելի քան երբեք, նորոգուած խինդով եւ լարուած հաւատքով եկեք դիմաւորենք ապագան, բեռնաւորուած անխախտ յանձնառութեամբ եւ պինդ կամքով շարունակելու աւելի փայլուն գալիքի մը տենչող մեր զուգահեռ ընթացող առաքելութիւնը:

Փա՛ռք Աստուծոյ:

Փա՛ռք Աւետարանչականը կերտող բոլոր սերունդներուն:

Բարի երթ Աւստրալիոյ Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան:

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Ապրիլ 10, 2016
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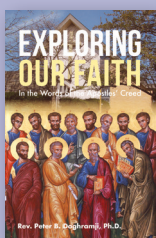
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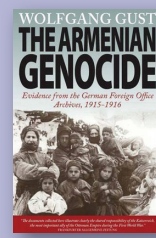
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Hildalea Gaidzakian

Hildalea Gaidzakian passed away on April 25, 2016 in São Paulo, Brazil. She was 86.

Hildalea was born on February 13, 1930 in Beirut, Lebanon to Armenian immigrants Zabel and George H. Gaidzakian and came to Brazil with her parents and brother in 1935.

In São Paulo she studied at Conservatório Dramático e Musical de São Paulo as well as at Conservatório Anchieta of Faculdade Mozarteum and became a professional of high artistic level as a singer, concert pianist, conductor, declaimer, broadcaster, and a dedicated music teacher. She received many awards and trophies for her work.

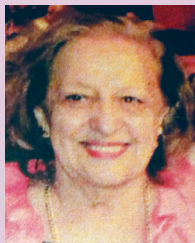
After completing her music training in Brazil, she went abroad where she advanced her vocal training at the University of Albany in New York. She performed in Canada, Lebanon, France, Argentina and the Republic of Armenia, always being praised for her performance, and was known as the "Nightingale of Armenia."

Hildalea was a member of the Coral Paulistano at the *Teatro Municipal* of São Paulo, where she was one of the major soloists. She was a Professor of Piano and Singing at the Conservatory of Santana, at the Brazilian Baptist College and Queen of Apostles, as well as a Professor of Vocal Technique at the Faculty of Dramatic and Musical Conservatory of São Paul. She was the head of Madrigal "Angelic Choirs," presenting many recitals. On the day the Gaidzakians settled in São Paulo, they became members of the Armenian Evangelical Central Church of São Paulo, contributing much to the spiritual and social activities of the community. For 35 years Hildalea was the soloist and Choir Conductor of the Church.

With an outstanding performance in the professional world of art and in the Armenian-Brazilian community for nearly 50 years, Hildalea was one of the legitimate interpreters of Armenian music, both sacred and popular, as well as Armenian history and Armenian poetry.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, nieces, a nephew, and several cousins. The wake was held at the Armenian Evangelical Central Church of São Paulo on April 26, and a memorial service was held on May 8.

She will be missed immensely by her loved ones and by the Armenian Community of São Paulo, Brazil. May God bless her memory and comfort her family members. □



Rosemarie and Levon Goulian



The following obituary is in loving memory of two AMAA supporters who passed away in 2013.

Rosemarie Taneian Goulian, a resident of New Milford, NJ, passed away suddenly on March 8, 2013. She was devoted to her family and the Armenian community. Rosemarie's parents were Haiganoush (Helen) and Bognos (Paul) Taneian of Guttenberg, NJ. She was married at Holy Cross Armenian Church in Union City, NJ and was also a member of St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly and the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus.

Levon Martin Goulian, Rosemarie's devoted husband, passed away on October 3, 2013. He was born in East Orange, NJ to Rose and Martin Goulian and grew up in Weehawken, NJ. He was a member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus for 94 years. Levon served in the Army during WWII at a very young age and was stationed in Panama.

Rosemarie and Levon left behind wonderful memories with their son, Paul, and their daughter, Carol Ellen (Stewart), both from Ridgewood, NJ, and their five grandchildren, Alyssa Goulian Stack (husband Rob), Katherine Goulian King (husband Sean), Victor Edwin Stewart, Jr., James Taneian Stewart, Jr. and Andrew George Goulian Stewart. They were also great grandparents to Charlotte Katherine and Garrett Paul Stack.

Rosemarie is survived by her sister Gloria Kouzoujian of Stamford, CT. Her two sisters, Beatrice Kassapian and her identical twin, Alice Bogdasarian, predeceased her. Levon is survived by his brother Richard Goulian. He had previously lost his brother Ara Goulian and his twin sister Lillian Neuberger.

Rosemarie was instrumental in the AGBU, where she was a Board member for many years. She was also active in the Women's Guild at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, and served on the Board

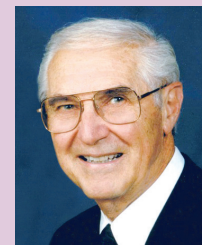
of the AMAA. She was a remarkable human being, and a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend to so many people, sharing her values and love with everyone who touched her life.

Levon was a very special person, excelling in sales and forming long-lasting friendships through his business relationships, a quality that he passed down to his children. He was a kind, generous person who loved his family and read the Bible every day. Levon devoted his life to his family by giving his time and caring for those whom he loved.

Both Rosemarie and Levon volunteered their time and resources whenever needed for the AMAA. Rosemarie also served on the AMAA Christmas and Summer Camp Committee for many years. □

Richard I. Kasper, M.D.

Richard L. Kasper, MD passed away March 29, 2016 in Newport Beach, CA. He was 96 and lived a long and fulfilled life dedicated to his Christian faith, his family, his medical profession and his Armenian heritage.



He was born Dicran Kasparian on a small farm in Fresno, CA in 1919 to immigrant parents who had recently arrived from Armenia. His family was deeply involved in the Armenian community and the Armenian Trinity Church in Fresno, CA.

His mother told him at a very early age that he would grow up to be a doctor. He excelled in science in school and enrolled at Fresno State before transferring to the University of California at Berkeley School of Optometry. He joined the Navy to help with his education and later served in the Army Residency Program. He graduated from the USC Medical School and practiced Ophthalmology in Burbank for 50 years into his 80s. Dr. Kasper was involved throughout his career with the Doheny Eye Institute at USC and received many awards for his work. In 1986, he first travelled to Armenia to help bring training and ophthalmology equipment to the hospital in Yerevan. Later he worked with Dr. Roger Ohanesian of the Harvard Eye institute in Laguna Beach who ultimately found the Armenian Eyecare Project, a major medical outreach program providing outstanding medical care to the people of Armenia.

Dr. Kasper was an Elder at the Hollywood Presbyterian Church, involved with Young

Life and Campus Crusade, started a Sunday School Class at Mariner's Church in Newport, and taught Sunday School at St. Mary's Armenian Church in Costa Mesa.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years Elizabeth in 2010. He is survived by his son Dennis and his wife Jodi and their two daughters, Ashleigh and Alexandra, and by his daughter, Marilyn Beck and her husband Jeff and their two children Lori and Matt Davis, Matt's wife Courtney, and his two great grandchildren Luke and Theo Davis.

A memorial service was held for Dr. Kasper on April 30 at Mariner's Church in Irvine. □

Samuel Mesroubian

Samuel Mesroubian of St. Paul MN passed away on January 23, 2016 at the age of 82.

The first born of Armenian Genocide survivors Marie and Haroutune Mesroubian, Sam grew up in the village of Kirikhan in the district of Iskandaroun, better known in biblical times as Antioch and in the present day as Hatay in Turkey. When he was six, the family moved to Aleppo, Syria. He lived in the refugee camp, known as Gurintse Camp, until his graduation from Aleppo College. The School was an affiliate of the American University of Beirut and supported by the Armenian Missionary Association of America and many American Evangelical Churches in the USA.

Sam learned the art of watch repair from his cousin's husband and started his own shop after graduation. After two years in the struggling business he took a position as an electrical technician with Iraqi Petroleum Company in the Syrian Desert at an outpost oil pumping station. When the war over ownership of the Suez Canal ended, the company offered back pay to its workers. With this small sum of money, Sam decided to leave for the U.S. to study electrical engineering.

He received his electrical engineering degree and retired from the 3M Company after 25 years of service. Sam was an active member of the Saint Sahag Armenian Apostolic Church in St. Paul for many years and a humble, cheerful and compassionate member of the Armenian Community in Minnesota.

He is survived by his wife Sylvia, his two children Scott and Sherre Mazzares (David), two granddaughters Sarah and Paige, brother Azad and his sister Lucy Ishkanian.

Funeral services were held on January 27 at the Woodbury Lutheran Church, Woodbury, MN. □



Vahe Stanley Touryan

Vahe Stanley Touryan passed away on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016, after a short illness. He was 77.

He was born in Jerusalem in August 1939, the fourth child of Rev. Vahram and Adelina Touryan. Vahe did his elementary education at the Central High School in Eshrefieh, Beirut. In 1956, he immigrated to the U.S. with his family. After completing his high school education, Vahe received his doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Southern California in 1965. He was certified by the State of California and served as a pharmacist at various locations in Glendale, CA. Vahe was highly regarded by the local community as a capable and very caring pharmacist.

In 1985, he married Ruth Ajemian and made his home in Pasadena. Not having children of their own, Vahe and Ruth became second parents to all the children and grandchildren of their brothers and sisters. As a gentle, modest, yet highly intelligent person with a unique sense of humor, Vahe was adored by both the Touryan and Ajemian kids.

Although Vahe's profession as a pharmacist was his vocation, his real love and expertise was in history and political science. It was a pleasure to listen to his uncanny and often profound analyses of human affairs. Vahe accepted the Lord at a young age and had a deep understanding and love for scripture. Everyone who met Vahe loved and admired him. He was one person for whom it can be said, "There was nothing false in him." John 1:47 (NIV)

He will be missed by his wife Ruth, extended family and all who knew him. □



John Voskian, M.D.

Dr. John B. Voskian, father of AMAA Board member Michael Voskian, DMD, passed away on March 16, 2016 in Montvale, NJ at the age of 91.

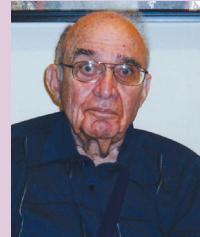
Born in New Jersey to Mihran and Victoria Voskian, he enjoyed a career spanning over 35 years as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist in both California and New Jersey.

A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy NY, John served in the Pacific Theater with the US Army during WWII. He attended Albany Medical School, completed his residency in OB/GYN at UCLA in California and practiced in Southern California before moving back to New Jersey where he worked as a physician at Hackensack Medical Center and Holy Name Hospital for over 25 years.

He met his wife, Marilyn, at a church picnic and they were married in 1957. They were blessed with three children. John loved his family, his church and his friends and the joy of bringing new life into the world as an OB/GYN physician. He was a mentor and a cheerleader to his children and grandchildren, never ceasing to support them in all they did.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marilyn, his children Victoria, Michael (Jacqueline) and Katherine, and his grandchildren Nicole and Jennifer Gambino, Dana and Mark Soulas, and Steven, Juliette and Evan Voskian.

Funeral services took place on March 21 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ. The family requests that donations may be made in John's memory to the Armenian Presbyterian Church-Building Fund or to the AMAA-Voskian Endowment Fund. □



The AMAA Board of Directors and the staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends.

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Benjamin Bakerjian
<i>Oxford, NJ</i> | Geni Helvadjan
<i>São Paulo, Brazil</i> |
| * Harout Bedikian
<i>Commerce City, MI</i> | * Vahe Manougian
<i>Aleppo, Syria</i> |
| * Kveta Florence Dvoracek
<i>Glendale, CA</i> | * Mardig Pogharian
<i>Canoga Park, CA</i> |
| * Silva Gurunlian
<i>Los Angeles, CA</i> | * Ephronia Yaghsezian
<i>Wallingford, CT</i> |

* Memorials designated for AMAA

ARMENIAN CHILDREN'S MILK FUND

TRIPLETS!



AMAA first heard about this family from a Facebook post which indicated that triplets (two girls and a boy) were in need of infant formula. The post also indicated that the parents lived under very bad social conditions and it was very difficult to find infant formula for their three newborns. AMAA Yerevan staff reached out and connected with the family.

The mother, Seda, was born in Yerevan, while the father, Tigran, is from the Yegeghnadzor, Vayots Dzor region. A year after they got married, they welcomed their first baby girl Lilit. Their son David was born four years later. Then the triplets Elen, Alen, Milena arrived in mid 2015. As the only breadwinner of the family, Tigran's very low salary cannot fully support his wife and five children. Seda confirms that having the little ones enrolled in the Armenian Children's Milk Fund program has been a huge assistance for their family.

Over the past 26 years, the Armenian Children's Milk Fund has assisted thousands of families with their individual needs. Purchasing formula can quickly become a financial hardship and the ACMF is committed to helping ease this burden by providing monthly allotments or as needed basis.

With the support of caring members, such as you, the AMAA can sustain this special program and continue giving a gift of love which lasts a lifetime.

A GIFT OF LOVE
A LIFELONG IMPACT



MAKE YOUR GIFT OF LOVE TODAY AND HELP GIVE BABIES A HEALTHY START TO LIFE

I would like to support and enable the ACMF to continue making a difference in the lives of Armenia's most vulnerable citizens. A gift of **\$25** will feed one child for one month - **\$300** will feed one child for one year.

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____

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Address: _____

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Phone: _____

Credit Card info. ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Amex

Acct. No. _____ Amount \$ _____ Exp. Date _____

Celebrate a birthday, a special occasion or the memory of a loved one.

Gift made (check one) ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of

Name and address to send tribute/acknowledgment

Please make all checks payable to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (memo: Milk Fund) or make a donation online today at www.amaa.org by clicking on the DONATE button.



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THE FIRST CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF PERA (BEYOĞLU), ISTANBUL TURKEY, 1850
Toubakji Jovsep, Sarkis Tarpiian, Sdepan Kurkjian, Khachadour Yeznagian, Dehr (Father) Vertaness, Pastor Simon Utujian, Hagop Mateossian, Saatji (Jamakordz) Akribas, M. Djilajian, Gadjoug Tateos, (One name is missing).